

DC BATMAN



BATMAN

WITH **ROBIN** THE TEEN WONDER

ONLY
25¢
bigger &
better

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

NO. 235
SEPT.
30050

THE SINISTER
RETURN of the
DAUGHTER
OF THE
DEMON!

DC
BATMAN

BIGGER AND BETTER
25¢

**BLAST OFF FOR A GALAXY OF TERRIFIC PRIZES
OR LOADS OF CASH**

Join Sales Leadership Club

GET FREE ALBUM OF PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS CARDS

**EXTRA
BONUS**

Free Gifts
for Re-Orders

**Join The Club
That Gives You
More . . .**

- FREE ALBUM of Actual Christmas Cards — Yours to Keep!
- AMAZING VALUE top quality cards with NAME IMPRINTED for ABOUT 8¢ EACH!
- FINEST SELECTION FOR EVERYONE — Sell Faster, Easier!
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Sell Only 12 Boxes

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No Postage Stamp Necessary If Mailed in the United States

Postage Will be Paid by Addressee

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
First Class Permit No. 3105, Springfield, Mass.

SALES LEADERSHIP CLUB

Dept. 1SN-7
Springfield, Mass. 01101

Blast Off to Fabulous Prizes or Lots of Cash Sales Leadership Club Makes It Easy

- 1098** Just fill in postage-free coupon and mail at once — no envelope necessary! We'll rush everything you need to start earning the prizes you choose. ALL AT NO COST TO YOU!
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BLAST OFF . . . Life Is Great When
You're A Winner
Everyone Who Tries Can Win!

BLAST OFF TODAY - JOIN THE LEADER NOW!
SALES LEADERSHIP CLUB, Springfield, Mass. 01101

Fold Over ↑ Don't Cut! Just Seal (Paste, Staple or Scotch Tape)
Enroll me as a member. Rush FREE Membership Card, Christmas Card Album, Prize Catalog and full details on how to earn prizes or cash.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



EVENING AT THE LAVISH PENTHOUSE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE--

I SAY, MASTER BRUCE... COULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO GIVE ME ASSISTANCE?

THIS RATHER UNWIELDY PARCEL JUST ARRIVED BY MESSENGER!

SURE, ALFRED!



UMMM...NO RETURN ADDRESS! NO INDICATION OF WHAT'S INSIDE!

ALLOW ME TO UTILIZE MY CROWBAR, SIR!



A MOMENT...THERE! THE LID IS FREE!



GOOD... LORD! IT'S A... DEAD BODY!

YES... DEAD AND HIDEOUSLY DEFORMED!

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A MOMENT OF NUMBING SHOCK--THEN BRUCE STRIPS OFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS TO REVEAL THE GARB OF THE DREAD

BATMAN

FOR WITH CHILL CERTAINTY HE KNOWS THERE IS A DIRE CHALLENGE CONFRONTING HIM IN...

SWAMP SINISTER

AS WAYNE, I'M NOT LIKELY TO BE RECEIVING *BODIES*! I HAVE A HUNCH THE *COFFIN* WAS SOMEHOW MEANT FOR *THE BATMAN*!

FIRST, WE'LL TAKE IT DOWN OUR *PRIVATE ELEVATOR* TO THE CAR--THEN BRING IT TO *POLICE HEADQUARTERS*!

NO NEED FOR *THAT*, DETECTIVE! I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR MACABRE GIFT! I FELT IT WOULD CAPTURE YOUR ATTENTION--AS INDEED IT *DID*!

NEXT, I'LL BEGIN SEARCHING FOR CLUES TO WHOM--EVER *SENT* IT--

STORY BY:
DENNY O'NEIL

ART BY:
IRV NOVICK &
DICK GIORDANO

RĀ'S AL GHŪL!

ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY, DETECTIVE! * HOWEVER, I HAVE NOT COME TO PAY A *SOCIAL* CALL...

--NO, I HAVE URGENT NEED OF YOUR MOST EXCELLENT *SERVICES*!

* NOTE: HOW THE MYSTERIOUS RĀ'S AL GHŪL MET THE BATMAN AND DISCOVERED HIS DUAL IDENTITY WAS REVEALED IN THE JUNE, 1971 *BATMAN*!

LOOK UPON THE TWISTED DEATH-MASK OF THIS PERSON--UNTIL RECENTLY, ONE OF MY... AH... EMPLOYEES!

SHOULD YOU *FAIL* IN THE TASK I AM ABOUT TO SET YOU, *THOUSANDS* OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL PERISH *SIMILARLY*!

YOU'D BETTER TELL THE STORY FROM THE *BEGINNING*--!

THE EVENTS HAVE THEIR START IN A *LABORATORY* I MAINTAIN IN A MOUNTAIN RETREAT...

"...A LABORATORY DEVOTED TO SEEKING CERTAIN USEFUL *COMPOUNDS*! ONE SUCH COMPOUND HAD RECENTLY BEEN *PERFECTED*--"

"--AND I DISCOVERED THE TECHNICIAN RESPONSIBLE FOR PACKAGING IT IN THE ACT OF *STEALING* IT!..."

AH, MY DEAR *STRISS*! DOUBTLESS, YOU PLAN TO *SELL* THE CONTENTS OF THE VIAL BENEATH YOUR JACKET... TO THE HIGHEST *BIDDER*?

YOU'VE FOUND ME *OUT*, MASTER--!

BUT YOU SHALL NOT *STOP* ME!

STRIKE HIM, *POLARD*!

YES, UNKNOWN TO ME, THE TREACHEROUS *STRISS* HAD A *CON-FEDERATE*--*POLARD*!

HE DEALT ME A *HORRIBLE* BLOW, AND TOGETHER THEY ESCAPED--OR SO THEY *THOUGHT*!

"MOMENTS LATER, MY DAUGHTER--TALIA--
DISCOVERED ME! THE BLOW TO THE SKULL HAD
STOPPED MY HEART--SHE COULD DETECT
NO SIGN OF LIFE WITHIN MY BEING..."



"I HAD
PREVIOUSLY
SPOKEN TO
HER OF
SUSPECTING
STRISS OF
PLANNED
DISLOYALTY!
THE GIRL
GUESSED
WHAT HAD
OCCURRED--
AND ORDERED
MY BODYGUARDS
TO SEEK OUT
THE VILLAIN
AND...
WREAK
VENGEANCE!..."



"HOWEVER, MY
PERSONAL
PHYSICIANS
WERE ABLE
TO REVIVE
ME, AS THEY
HAVE SO
OFTEN BEFORE!
YES, IT WAS
NOT THE FIRST
TIME I HAD
TASTED
DEATH..."



WELL...I
DON'T QUITE
SEE WHY YOU
NEED ME!

STRISS THOUGHT
HE WAS STEALING
A CHEMICAL WHICH
RENDERS THE METAL
MOLYBDENUM AS
WEAK AS TINFOIL--

BUT HE DOES NOT
KNOW THAT IF LEFT
EXPOSED TO AIR, IT
TRANSFORMS ITSELF
INTO A DEADLY
PLAGUE-CARRIER!



THERE IS YOUR
EVIDENCE! THIS
CREATURE WAS
ONCE POLARD--
STRISS'
ACCOMPLICE!

APPARENTLY
WHEN HE ATTACKED
ME, SOME OF THE
CHEMICAL SPLASHED
ON HIM!

YOU MEAN THAT
THING'S INFECTED
WITH PLAGUE?!
WE BETTER
GET OUT--

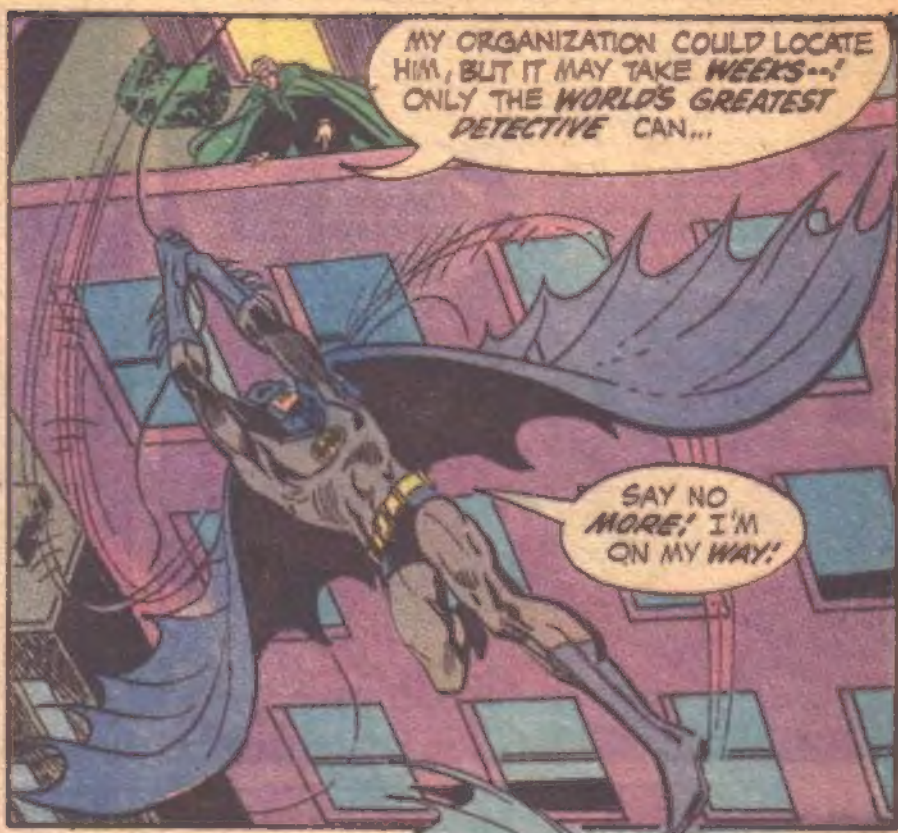
MY MEN
FOUND HIM IN
AN ALLEY!





HAVE NO FEAR!
MY
PHYSICIANS
DISIN-
FECTED
THE BODY!
THEY HAVE
SKILLS
ORDINARY
DOCTORS
LACK!

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND
WHY I NEED *YOU*! UNLESS
YOU FIND *STRISS* BEFORE
TALIA DOES, THE
CHEMICAL MAY BE
LOOSED--AND DEATH
WILL STALK THE LAND!



MY ORGANIZATION COULD LOCATE
HIM, BUT IT MAY TAKE *WEEKS*--!
ONLY THE *WORLD'S GREATEST*
DETECTIVE CAN...

SAY NO
MORE! I'M
ON MY WAY!



ACROSS
THE ROOF
OF THE
SKYLINE
AN AWE-
SOME
FIGURE
LEAPS--

I CAN FILL IN
THE HOLES IN *RA'S*
AL GHUL'S TALE... LIKE
WHY HE CAN'T
CONTACT HIS
DAUGHTER! I'VE
MET THE LADY...

...SHE'S THE
INDEPENDENT
TYPE! SHE'LL
MOVE *FAST*--!

I'VE A *GRIM* JOB AHEAD!
NO CLUES, NO PLACE TO
START--JUST A *HUNCH*!



STRISS WILL WANT TO
TEST THE STUFF HE
STOLE... AND THERE'S
NOT MUCH *MOLYBDENUM-*
FIVE IN EXISTENCE!

WHAT THERE
IS MOSTLY
BELONGS TO
SOLOMON T. LONDON...
THE MOST *ECENTRIC*
OF BILLIONAIRES!

THAT'S HIS
MANSION
AHEAD--



SOMETHING'S *ODD* IN THE
AIR! SMELLS LIKE...
YES!-- *GAS*!

WITHOUT BREAKING STRIDE, THE *CAPED CRUSADER* REACHES INTO HIS *UTILITY BELT* AND FITS A TINY EFFICIENT GAS-MASK INTO PLACE...

THE GATE IS WIDE OPEN... SOMETHING LONDON WOULD NEVER ALLOW!

AND I CAN GLIMPSE SOMEONE ON GUARD JUST INSIDE THE GROUNDS!

AS I GUESSED--A GUN-TOTING CHARACTER! GOT TO MOVE *FAST*-- AND HOPE MY SUDDEN APPEARANCE MESSSES HIS *AIM*!

THIS IS *THE BATMAN*--NO ONE IS FASTER, NOR MORE SWIFT... FOR NO ONE HATES EVIL IN ALL ITS FORMS SO FIERCELY--

BRATT

MOMENTS LATER...

THE REPORT OF THE GUN CAME FROM NEAR HEAR...

BEHOLD! OUR COMPANION HAS BEEN *FELLED*!

COULD HIS GAS-MASK HAVE LEAKED?

PERHAPS! THE FLUMES WE USED TO IMMOBILIZE THE AMERICAN'S HENCHMEN ARE INDEED POWERFUL!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

What would you call a game with pitchers, hitters, runners, outs, base hits, double plays, home runs and a . . . chain?



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You'd call it

SKITTLE BASEBALL™

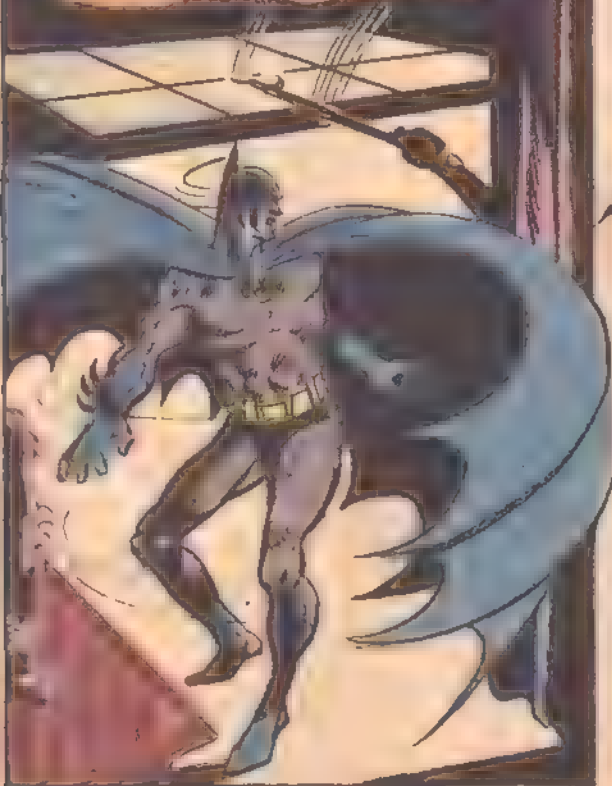
'Cause that's what it is. Skittle Baseball is just like baseball, only you play it the Skittle way. One player pitches the ball. The other player tries to hit it into the outfield for a single, or double or homer or maybe an out. Skittle

Baseball. It takes big league skill to win. From AURORA. Where fun is the name of the game.

AURORA



IT IS THE FAINTEST OF SOUNDS...
A WHISPER OF CLOTH; YET
SUCH ARE *THE BATMAN'S*
REFLEXES THAT EVEN THIS
RUSTLING SNAPS HIM INTO
TACT READINESS.

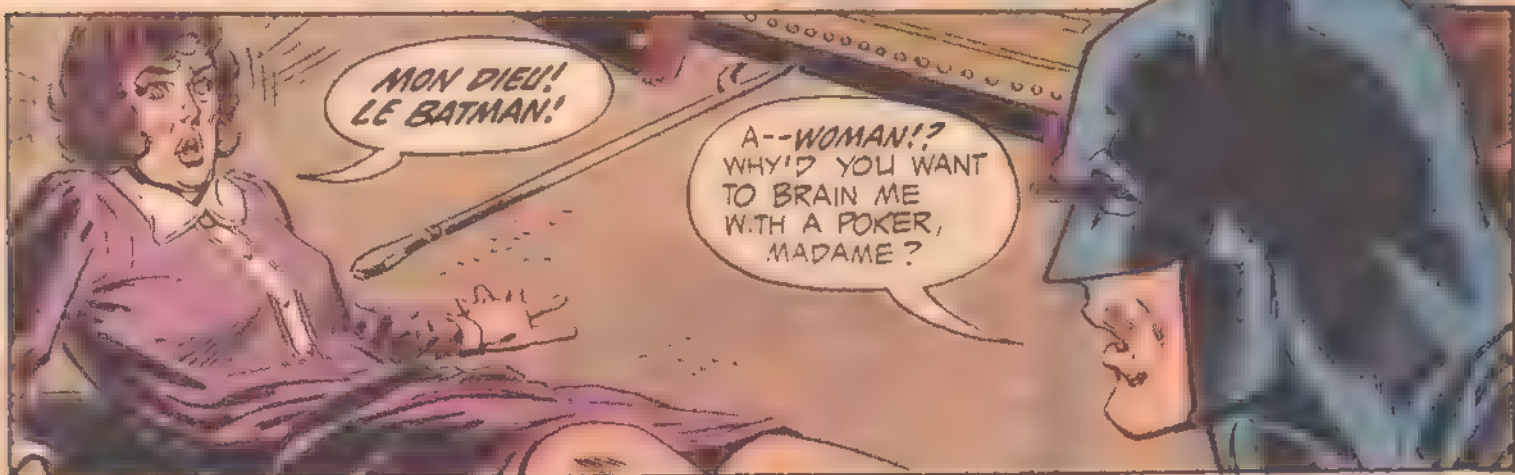


AND WITH THE AGILITY OF A
PANTHER HE EXECUTES A
PERFECT *JUDO-THROW!*



MON DIEU!
LE BATMAN!

A--WOMAN!?
WHY'D YOU WANT
TO BRAIN ME
WITH A POKER,
MADAME?



I AM ZE...HOW YOU
SAY?--HOUSEKEEPER!
FIRS' ZESE BAD MEN
COME TO TAKE M'SIEU
LONDON!

ZEN... OTHER BAD MEN
COME LOOKING FOR HIM!
I AM... FRIGHTENED!
I THINK YOU ARE ONE
OF ZESE EVILS--



DID THEY SAY
WHERE THEY
WERE TAKING
YOUR BOSS?
PLEASE...TRY
TO REMEMBER!

NO...ONLY ONE SAY
ZEY GO TO ZE...
*SMALL
STREAM!*

OH, BROTHER!--
THERE MUST BE A MILLION
SMALL STREAMS IN THE
COUNTRY!





THE FIRST GROUP WAS IN THE SERVICE OF STRISS! PROBABLY HOODS HE BOUGHT WITH THE PROMISE OF BIG MONEY!

AND THE SECOND GROUP BELONGED TO TALIA! SHE WAS ALSO TOO LATE!

IF ONLY I UNDERSTOOD THAT REFERENCE TO A SMALL STREAM!



WAIT! MADAME, YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE IS FRENCH--?

OUI... I MEAN-- YES!

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW! * SHOW ME A TELEPHONE PLEASE!

* NOTE: DID YOU CATCH THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY, AS DID THE BATMAN?



QUICKLY THE COWLED AVENGER CALLS HIS BUTLER--ALFRED--AND SNAPS INSTRUCTIONS...



AND LESS THAN FORTY MINUTES LATER, THE LOYAL SERVANT MEETS HIS EMPLOYER AT GOTHAM AIRPORT...

I CALLED EVERY MARINA IN THE AREA YOU MENTIONED, SIR! A CHAP AT A TOWN NAMED PORT-AU-LAC SAW THE PARTY YOU WANT!

THANKS, ALFRED! SEE YOU SOON-- I HOPE!



THEN, IN RA'S AL GHUL'S PRIVATE JET...

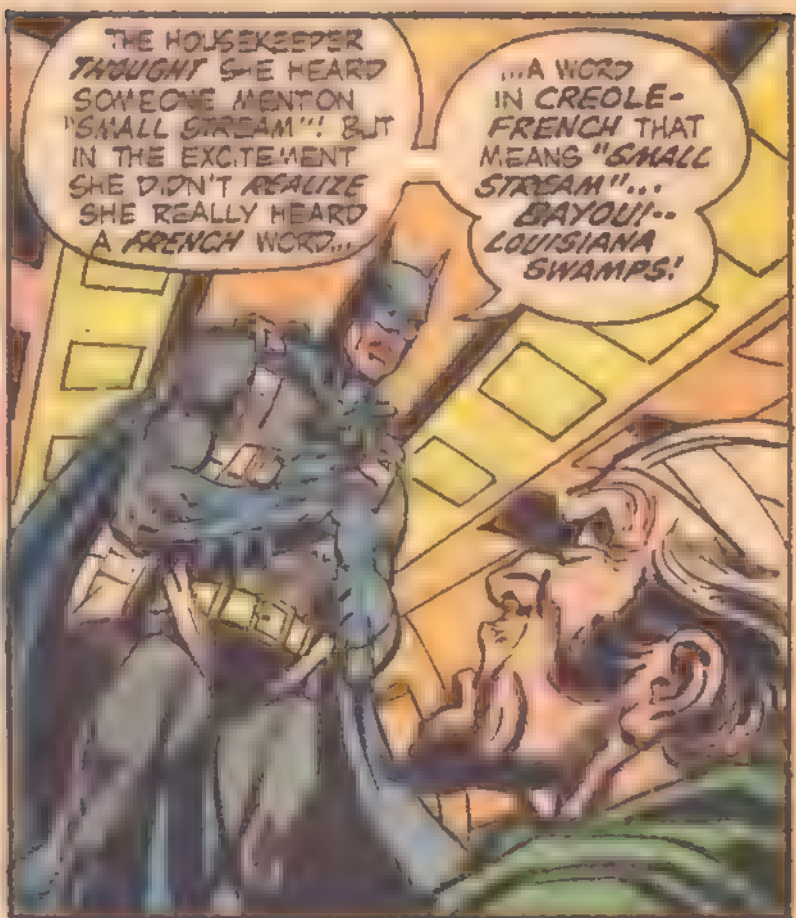
YOU HAVE DEDUCED STRISS' HIDING-PLACE, DETECTIVE?



MAYBE! IT'S WELL-KNOWN THAT LONDON HAS A PRIVATE FALL-OUT SHELTER SOMEPLACE--

--AND IT FIGURES THAT HE HAS HIS HOARD OF MOLYBDENUM-57 THERE!

YOU HAVE DETERMINED THE LOCATION OF THIS FALL-OUT SHELTER?



THE HOUSEKEEPER THOUGHT SHE HEARD SOMEONE MENTION "SMALL STREAM"! BUT IN THE EXCITEMENT SHE DIDN'T REALIZE SHE REALLY HEARD A FRENCH WORD...

...A WORD IN CREOLE-FRENCH THAT MEANS "SMALL STREAM"... BAYOU!-- LOUISIANA SWAMPS!



THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ABOVE--AND THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING!

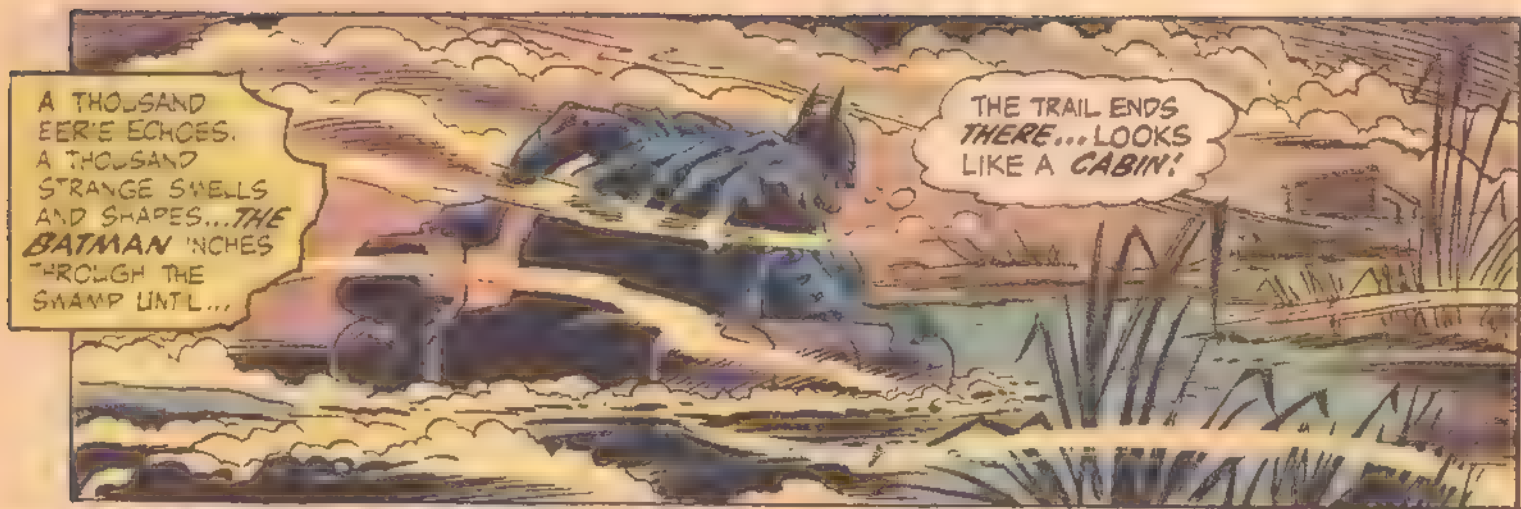


DOWN THROUGH THE FACE OF THE FALSE DAWN DROPT TWO PARACHUTES-- BEARING THE BATMAN AND A SMALL IN-FLATABLE MOTORBOAT...



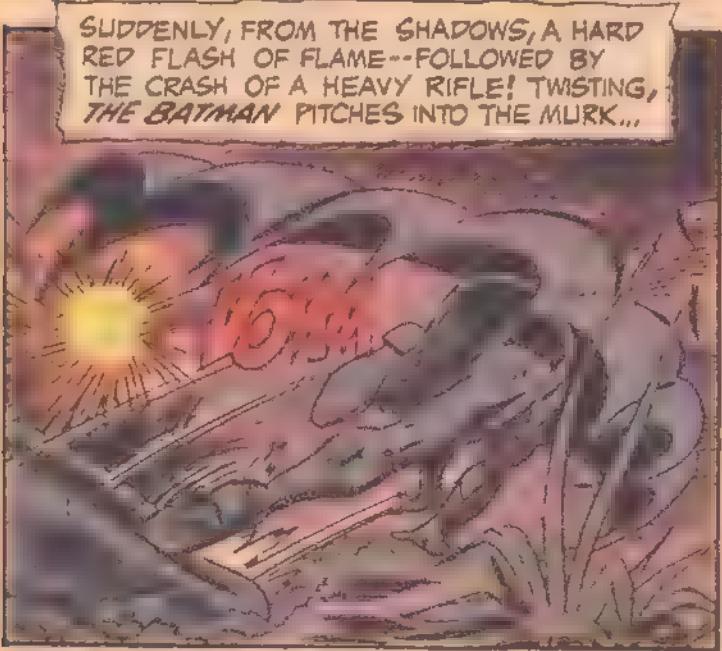
ALFRED WAS ABLE TO PINPOINT THE SECTION OF THE BAYOU FOR ME! NOW I'VE GOT TO WINN IT!

WHY...I'M IN LUCK!-- AN OIL-SLICK ON THE SWAMP-WATER!-- A TRAIL TO FOLLOW!

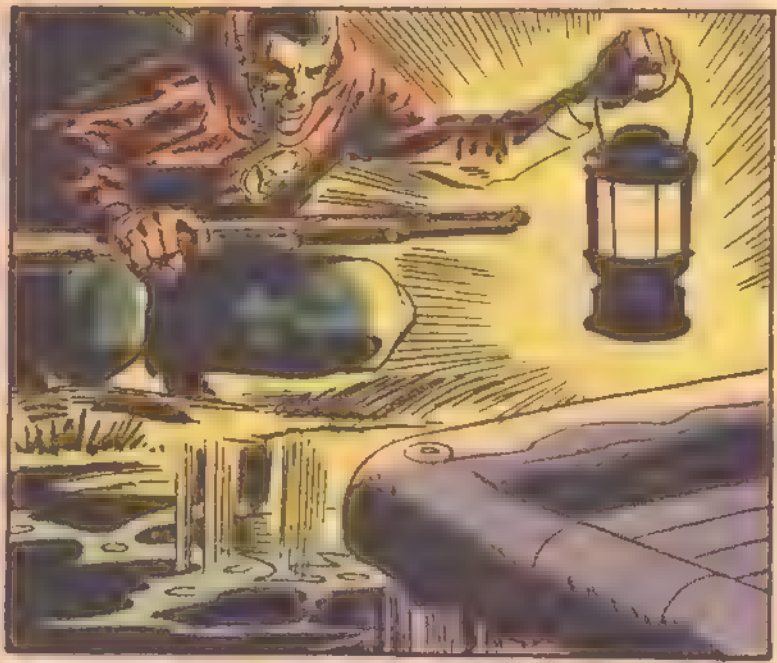


A THOUSAND
EERIE ECHOES.
A THOUSAND
STRANGE SWELLS
AND SHAPES...**THE
BATMAN** INCHES
THROUGH THE
SWAMP UNTIL...

THE TRAIL ENDS
THERE... LOOKS
LIKE A **CABIN**!



SUDDENLY, FROM THE SHADOWS, A HARD
RED FLASH OF FLAME--FOLLOWED BY
THE CRASH OF A HEAVY RIFLE! TWISTING,
THE BATMAN PITCHES INTO THE MURK...



ANOTHER OF RÅ'S
MEN! TALIA LEAVES A
LOT OF GUARDS BEHIND!

THIS SHACK MUST
BE LONDON'S HIDE-
OUT! YET... IT DOESN'T
APPEAR TO BE!



SO **THAT'S** THE
SECRET! THE CABIN IS
REALLY AN... **ELEVATOR**!

--PERFECT
CAMOUFLAGE FOR
AN UNDERGROUND
SHELTER!

AT THAT INSTANT, A GRIM DRAMA
IS BEING ENACTED *BELOW*...

YOU MADE A
GOOD RUN, *STRISS*!
BUT IT'S FINISHED--AND
SO ARE *YOU*! I'LL
WATCH YOU *DIE* FOR
WHAT YOU DID TO
MY FATHER!

PLEASE,
MISS... I CAN'T
STAND
BLOODSHED!

SHUT UP,
HISTER LONDON!
THIS IS NONE
OF YOUR
CONCERN!

BEFORE YOU...
SHOOT HIM--
TELL ME!
HOW DID YOU
FIND MY
SHELTER?

I SPENT *MILLIONS*
TO KEEP ITS LOCATION
A SECRET!

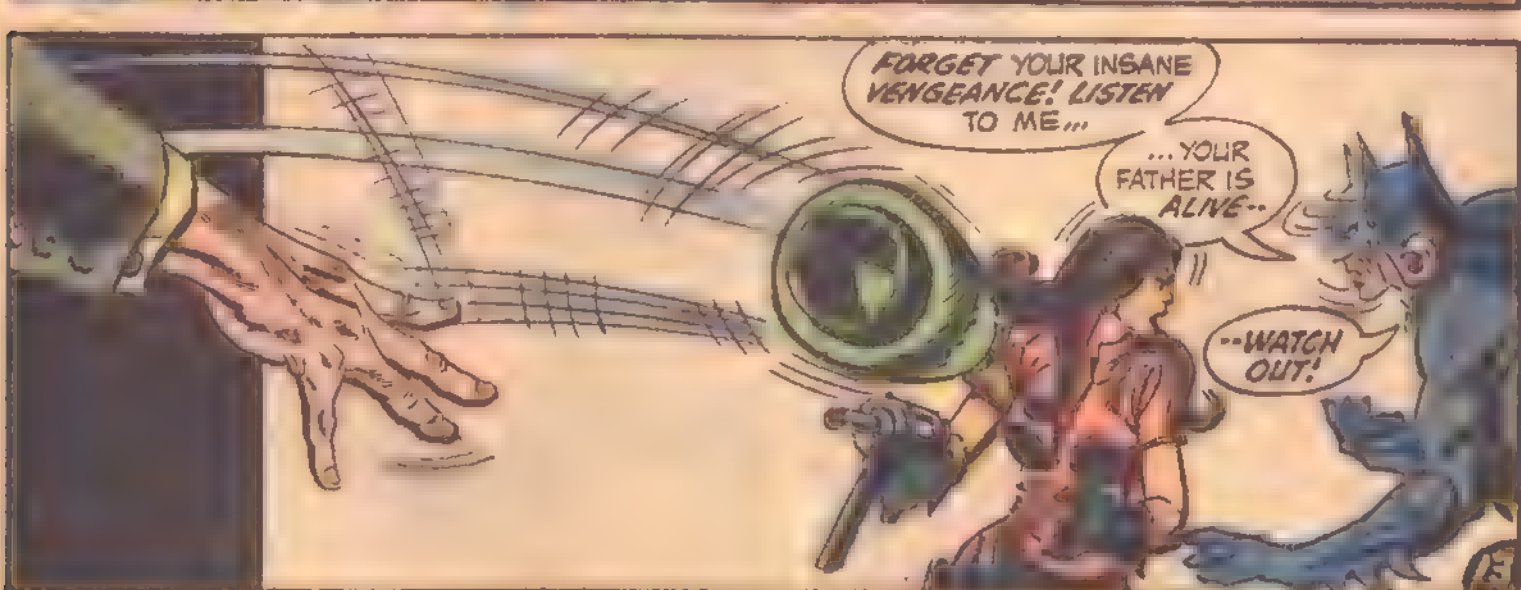
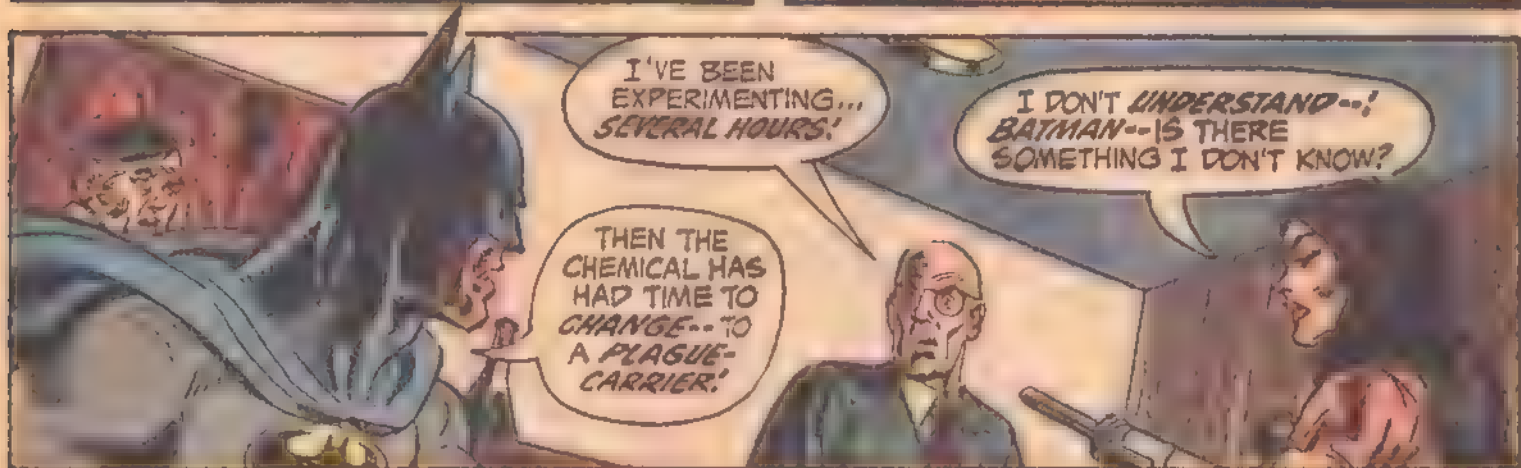
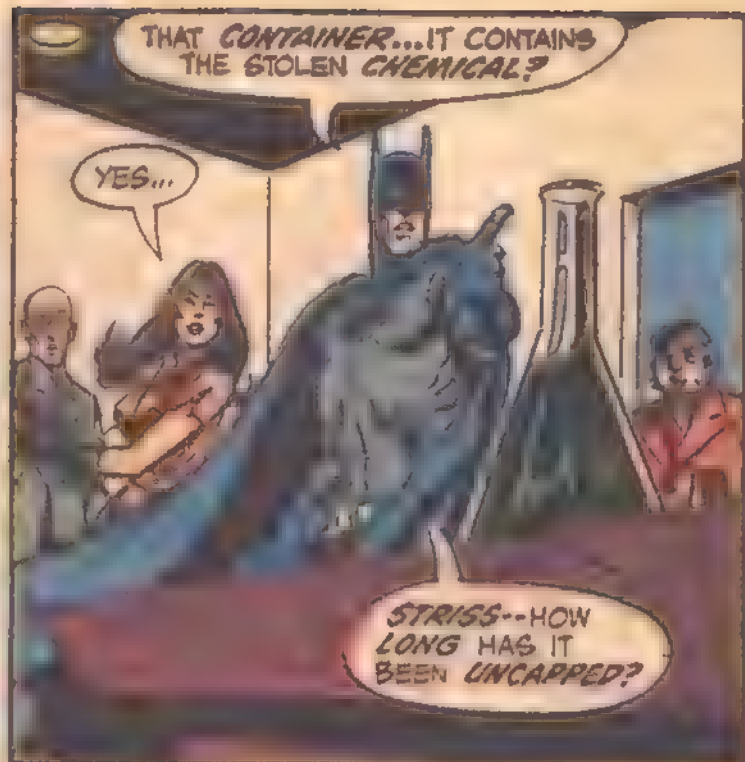
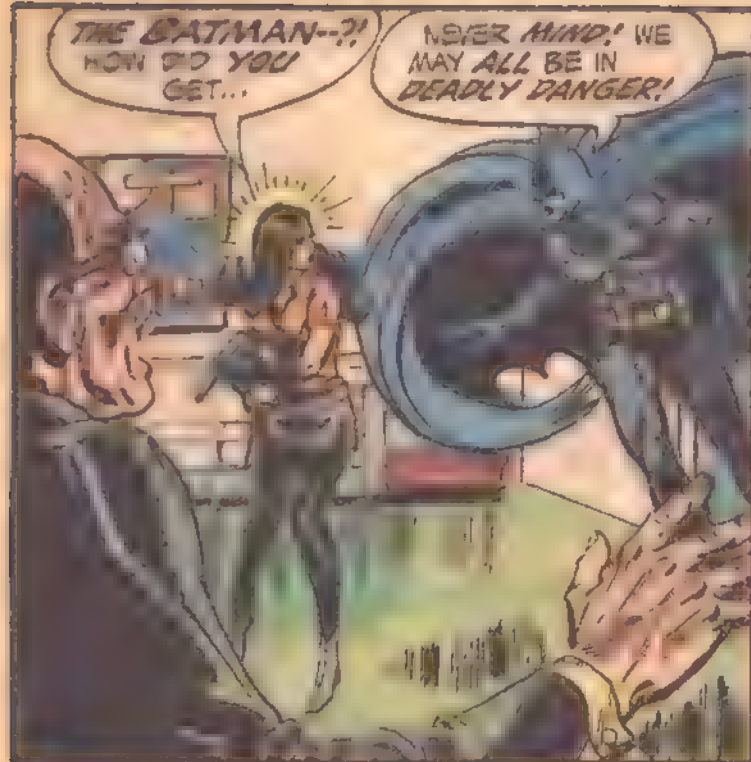
I'LL *HUMOR*
YOU!-- MY
FATHER'S
ORGANIZATION
KEEPS CLOSE
TRACK OF
THOSE WHO
MAY HAVE
USEFUL ITEMS--
SUCH AS
*MOLYBDENUM-
FIVE*!

IT WAS A
SIMPLE FEMININE
MATTER TO BRIBE
MEMBERS OF YOUR
STAFF AND LEARN
WHERE YOU HAD
BEEN *SHIPPING*
THE METAL!

I SENT MEN TO
YOUR MANSION TO
WARN YOU THAT
STRISS MIGHT
ATTEMPT YOUR
CAPTURE! HOW-
EVER, HE ARRIVED
EARLIER--

ENOUGH IDLE
TALK! PREPARE
YOURSELF,
MURDEROUS
TRAITOR--FOR
YOUR *END*!

TALIA--
NO!



WITH STUNNING FORCE, THE VASE SMASHES INTO THE LOVELY GIRL, KNOCKING HER BACK, AGAINST THE BATMAN! A MADDENED, HORRIBLY FRIGHTENED *STRESS* LEAPS FOR HER FALLEN WEAPON--

--SNATCHES IT UP AS HIS CAPED FOE HURTLES ACROSS THE ROOM--

FOOL! YOU CAN'T WIN!

AND I WON'T LOSE!

BRAVE!

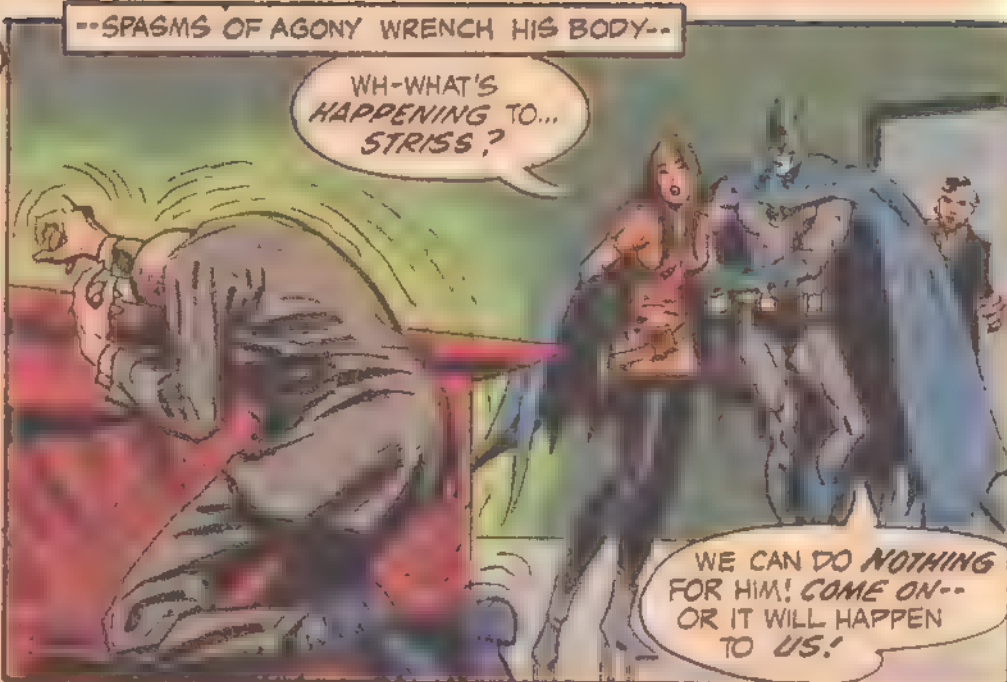
THE CHAMBER IS FILLED WITH WHINING SLUGS--ONE OF WHICH SHATTERS THE BEAKER FILLED WITH THE DEADLY DRUG--

SPEED!

ABRUPTLY THE STRUGGLE ENDS--! LIKE A RAG DOLL, *STRESS* TUMBLES BACKWARD, FLAILING HELPLESSLY--



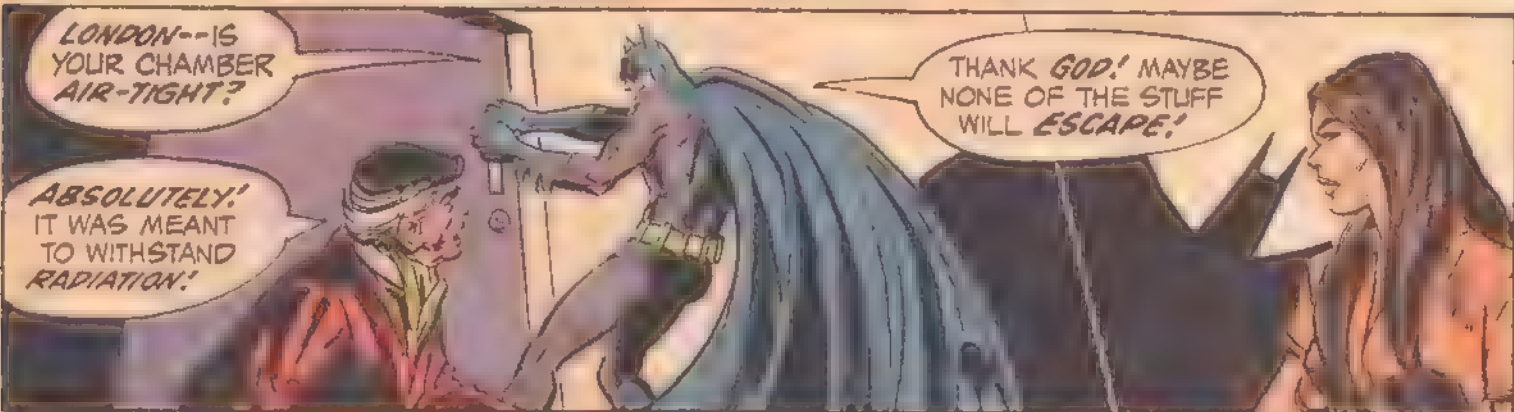
--HIS HAND TOUCHES
A PUDDLE OF THE SHIMMERING,
DEATH-LADEN LIQUID--



--SPASMS OF AGONY WRENCH HIS BODY--

WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO...
STRISS?

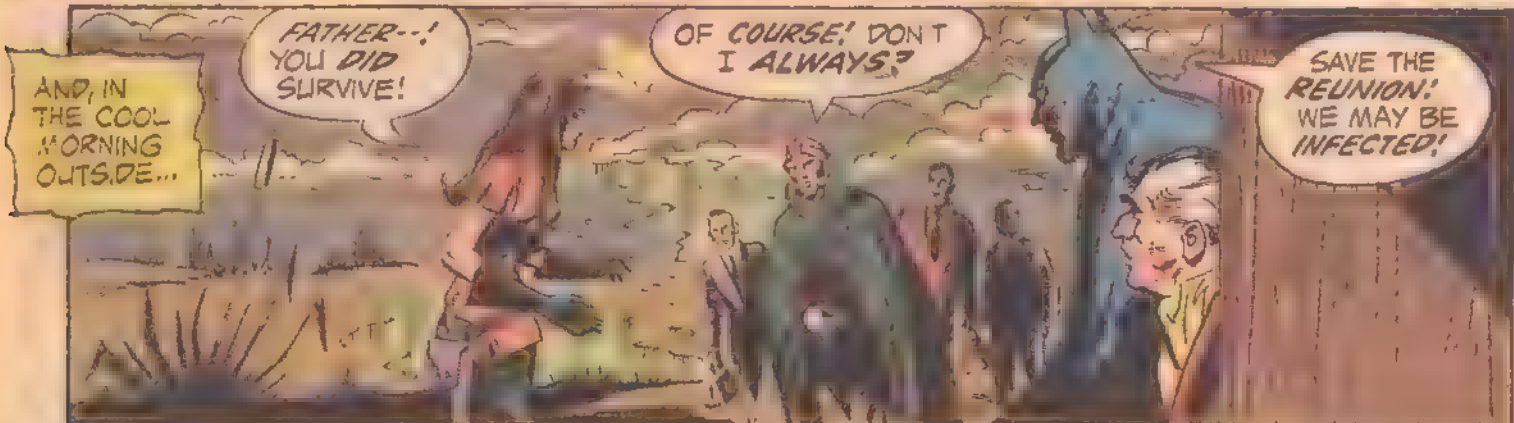
WE CAN DO *NOTHING*
FOR HIM! COME ON--
OR IT WILL HAPPEN
TO US!



LONDON--IS
YOUR CHAMBER
AIR-TIGHT?

ABSOLUTELY!
IT WAS MEANT
TO WITHSTAND
RADIATION!

THANK GOD! MAYBE
NONE OF THE STUFF
WILL *ESCAPE*!

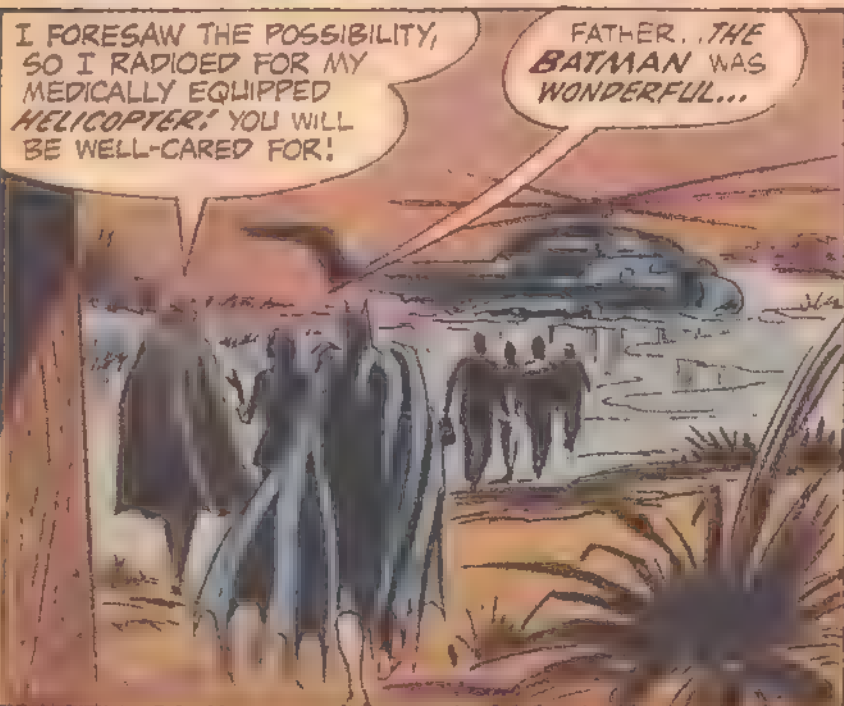


AND, IN
THE COOL
MORNING
OUTSIDE...

FATHER--!
YOU *DID*
SURVIVE!

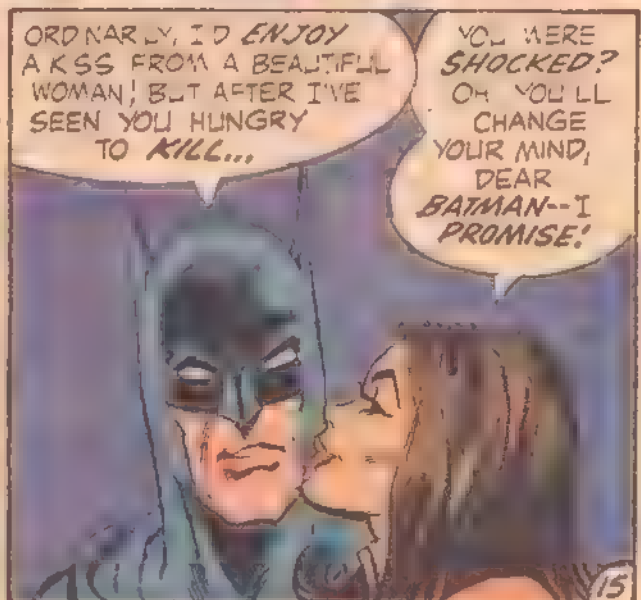
OF COURSE! DON'T
I ALWAYS?

SAVE THE
REUNION!
WE MAY BE
INFECTED!



I FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY,
SO I RADIOED FOR MY
MEDICALLY EQUIPPED
HELICOPTER! YOU WILL
BE WELL-CARED FOR!

FATHER, *THE*
BATMAN WAS
WONDERFUL...

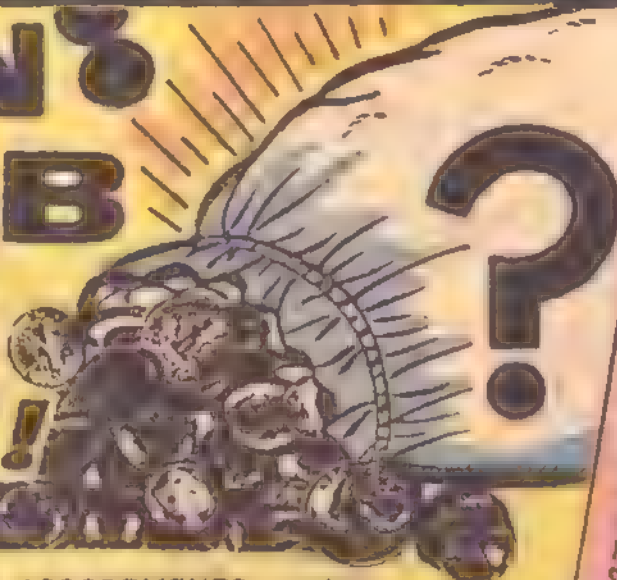


ORDNARLY, I'D ENJOY
A KISS FROM A BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN! BUT AFTER I'VE
SEEN YOU HUNGRY
TO *KILL*...

YOU WERE
SHOCKED?
OH YOU'LL
CHANGE
YOUR MIND,
DEAR
BATMAN--I
PROMISE!

AND A PROMISE BY THE LOVELY TALIA IS
NOT ONE TO BE FORGOTTEN! MORE TO
COME SOON!

COIN? GRAB BAG FREE!



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- *Partial List of Coins in Collections:**
- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
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| Large Cents | Mercury Dimes |
| Flying Eagle Cents | Seated Liberty |
| Copper Nickel | 25c |
| Cents | Barber Quarters |
| Indian Head Cents | Standing Liberty |
| Early Lincoln | 25c |
| Cents | Seated Liberty |
| Two Cents | 50c |
| Three Cents | Barber Half Dollar |
| Liberty Nickels | Walking Liberty |
| Shield Nickels | 50c |
| Buffalo Nickels | Civil War Tokens |
| Half Dimes | Hard Times Tokens |
| Seated Liberty Dimes | Coins of the World |

MAIL COUPON TODAY:

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Coin Grab Bags at 2.98 each plus 25¢ pp.
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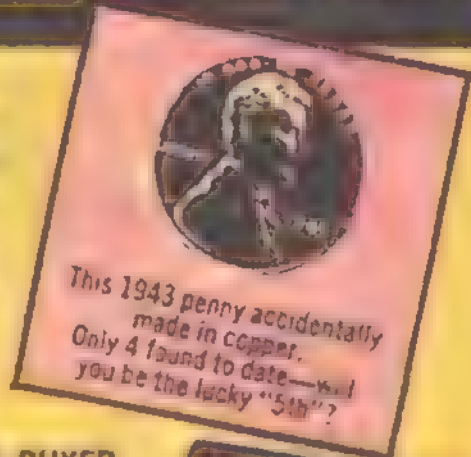
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BIG CASH REWARD \$9,785.01 FOR THIS PENNY!

BIG CASH PAID FOR SMALL CHANGE!

Hold onto your coins until you check them against my OFFICIAL ILLUSTRATED Coin Catalog. They may be worth thousands of dollars to you. Yes right now you may have a fortune hidden in everyday coins in your pocket, purse, piggy bank or attic. Coins don't have to be old to be extra valuable. Over a million dollars paid last year alone to lucky owners of coins dated as recent as 1963. MY OFFICIAL Coin Catalog lists the big cash profits I pay you on hundreds of coins . . . identifies the rare coins and dates and how to spot them! Cash in on the Coin Bonanza. Send today for our OFFICIAL COIN Catalog — it may reward you with thousands of dollars. Mail \$1.00 plus 10¢ postage-handling. Your purchase price refunded in full with the First \$10.00 purchase check we send you for your coins . . . and the Coin Catalog is yours to keep FREE! ORDER TODAY!

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OTHERS LISTED
IN OUR BIG
ILLUSTRATED
COIN CATALOG.
SEND TODAY!



THE COIN BUYER
Dept. 9NC 2928-41 Ave.
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\$1,000,000 HUNT FOR RARE COINS!
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Gold Coins before 1933.....	38,500.00
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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MONEY BACK GUARANTEED IF NOT DELIGHTED

Second chance for high school drop-outs to get a diploma



Now you can Finish High School at home

EARN A DIPLOMA IN YOUR SPARE TIME
WITHOUT LOSING A DAY'S PAY

PREPARE FOR A BETTER JOB WITH HIGHER PAY

\$94,000 extra income in a lifetime

U.S. Government figures show the average high school graduate earns \$94,000 more than the non-graduate. Here's what the extra money can mean:



Live in a home of your own in a fine neighborhood.

Drive a new car, provide other luxuries for your family.



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This practical program is offered by Academy for Home Study. It was planned especially for working men and women who need a diploma to get ahead and can't take time out to go back to classroom study. It offers these advantages:

- Full Credit for Previous Schooling
- Simplified, Easy-to-Read Lessons
- True-False Multiple-Choice Tests
- Experienced Instructors

A diploma means a lot today—in prestige and in cash, and in greater job opportunities.

Get the Full Story—FREE

Send for Academy's FREE booklet. It tells you how you can finish high school at home. Low cost, easy terms. You will also receive, free a valuable Government booklet with advice for drop-outs. You may discover you are much closer to completing high school than you imagined. Mail coupon below today for both booklets. There's no cost or obligation. Academy, 425 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.



ACADEMY FOR HOME STUDY

425 S. Dearborn Street, Dept. 68-913, Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please rush FREE booklet on how to finish high school at home, also free Government booklet. No obligation.

Print Name.....Age....

Address.....Apt. No....

City & State.....Zip.....

STORY:
MIKE FREIDRICH

ART: IRV NOVICK &
DICK GIORDANO

YOUR COMMUNE LIVES
IN VIRTUAL SHACKS--READY
TO FALL APART AT THE
SLIGHTEST STORM!

S-727

NO PLUMBING, NO
TELEPHONES, A DIRT
PATH FOR A ROAD--
YOU EVEN HAVE TO
HAUL YOUR *WATER*
FROM A STREAM!

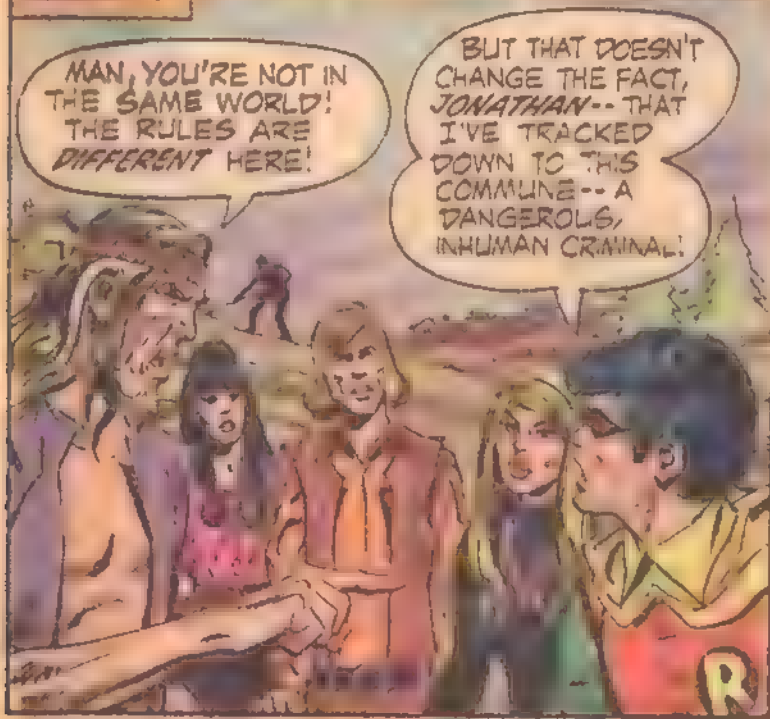
YOU'RE ALMOST TOTALLY
ISOLATED FROM
CIVILIZATION--AND WHAT
FEW NEIGHBORS YOU
HAVE, COMPLETELY
DISTRUST YOU!

HOW CAN YOU
GIVE UP SO MUCH--
FOR SO LITTLE?

ROBIN--
GET OUTA
HERE!
WE DON'T
WANT YOUR
PLASTIC
WORLD!
WE'RE...

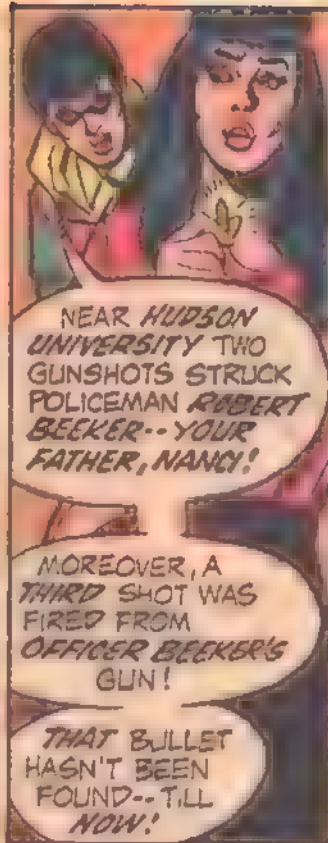
"The Outcast Society"

THE SCENE: A RURAL COMMUNE IN UPSTATE-GOTHAM!
ABOUT TO UNFOLD: THE MOST UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE
IN THE LIFE OF DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS THE RENOWNED
ROBIN!!...



MAN, YOU'RE NOT IN THE SAME WORLD! THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT HERE!

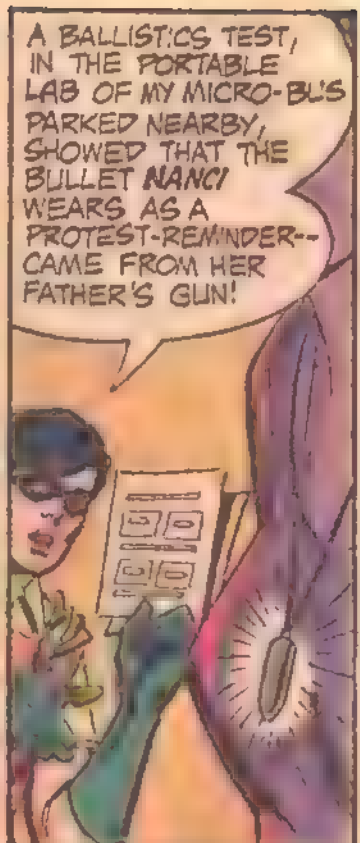
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT, JONATHAN-- THAT I'VE TRACKED DOWN TO THIS COMMUNE-- A DANGEROUS, INHUMAN CRIMINAL!



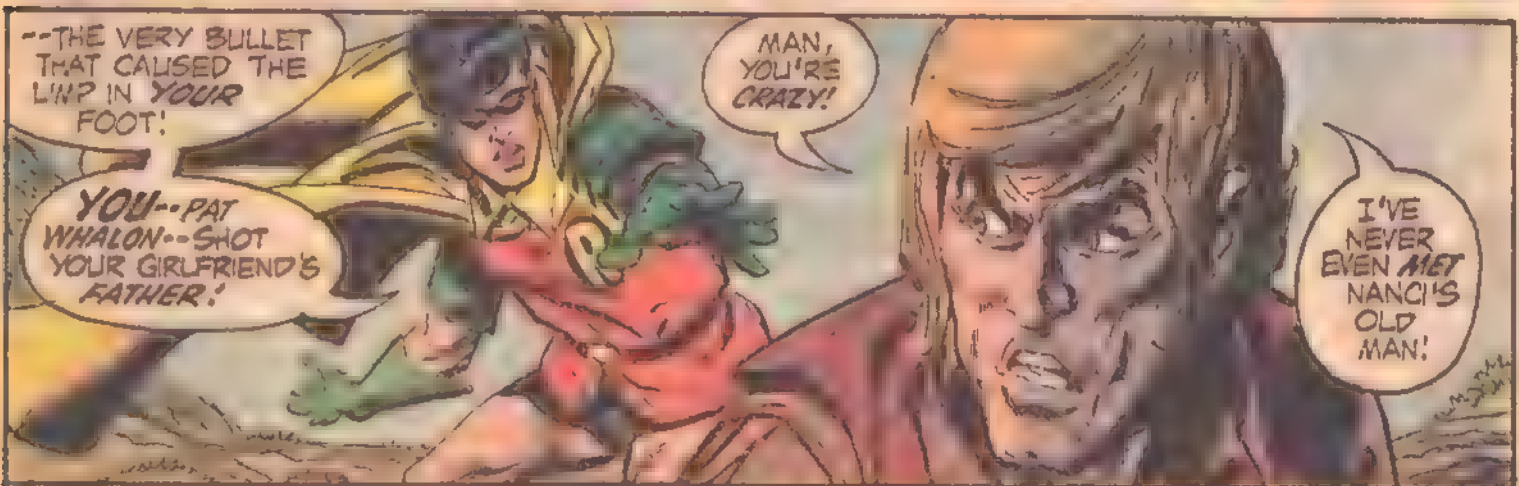
NEAR HUDSON UNIVERSITY TWO GUNSHOTS STRUCK POLICEMAN ROBERT BEEKER-- YOUR FATHER, NANCY!

MOREOVER, A THIRD SHOT WAS FIRED FROM OFFICER BEEKER'S GUN!

THAT BULLET HASN'T BEEN FOUND--TILL NOW!



A BALLISTICS TEST, IN THE PORTABLE LAB OF MY MICRO-BUS PARKED NEARBY, SHOWED THAT THE BULLET NANCY WEARS AS A PROTEST-REMINDER--CAME FROM HER FATHER'S GUN!



--THE VERY BULLET THAT CAUSED THE LIMP IN YOUR FOOT!

MAN, YOU'RE CRAZY!

YOU--PAT WHALON--SHOT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S FATHER!

I'VE NEVER EVEN MET NANCY'S OLD MAN!



HE'S MAKING IT UP, PAT--JUST TO DEFEND HIS IMAGE!

C'MON, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HIM!

I'VE GOT TO BRING HIM IN TO STAND TRIAL!

NO, ROBIN! HE'S A MEMBER OF OUR "FAMILY"-- AND ONLY THE ENTIRE GROUP CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO LET YOU ARREST HIM!



REMEMBER, YOU TOO PASSED OUR ENTRANCE RITUAL--AND CAN JOIN US--IF YOU DO SO IN PEACE!

GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE!

THEN COME ON--LET ME SHOW YOU A DREAM!



"THIS COUNTRY WAS ORIGINALLY FORMED BY OUTCASTS LIKE US--ENGLISH, RELIGIOUS FUGITIVES... FORCED AFRICAN SLAVES... POOR EUROPEAN 'WY GRANTS..."

"AFTER A FEW YEARS, A REVOLUTION OCCURRED-- AND GUESS WHO THEY!"

"OUR REVOLUTION IS ONE OF THE *JOBY!* WE WISH TO MAKE THE LEFT-SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN MATCH HER GREAT IDEALS..."

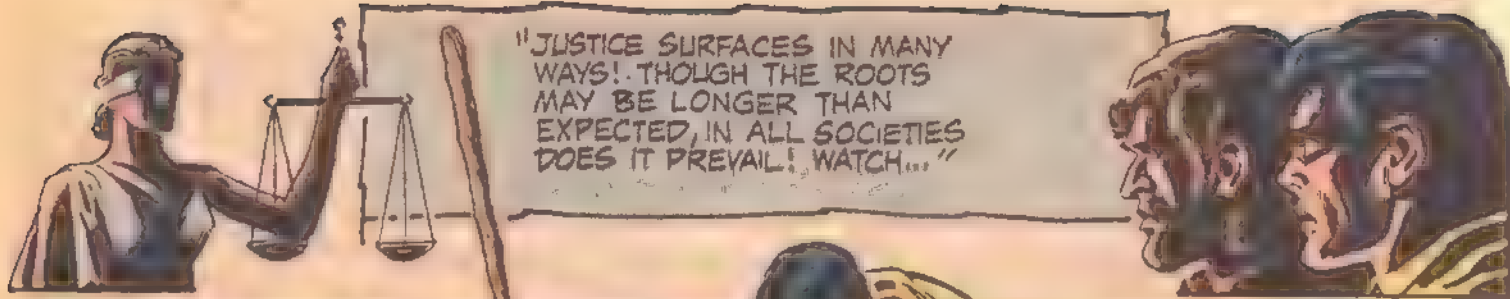
"FORTUNE SMILED ON US IN THE FORM OF A NEARBY, SHED-ASIDE IN A TREE! THEY SHARED MANY TRADITIONS AND TAUGHT US MUCH..."

"THERE'S A REAL COMMUNITY HERE-- ONE EXTENDED FAMILY. WE SHAPE OUR PLACE ON THE LAND TOGETHER..."

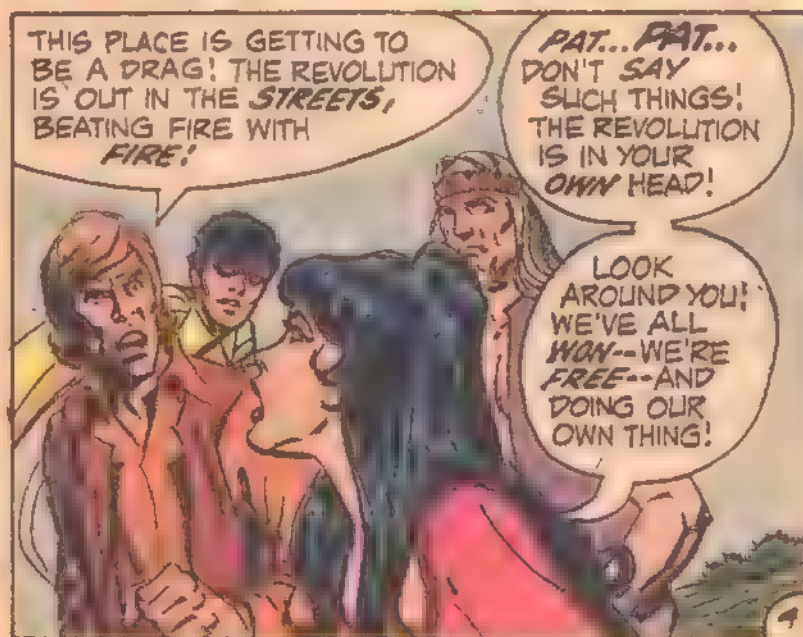
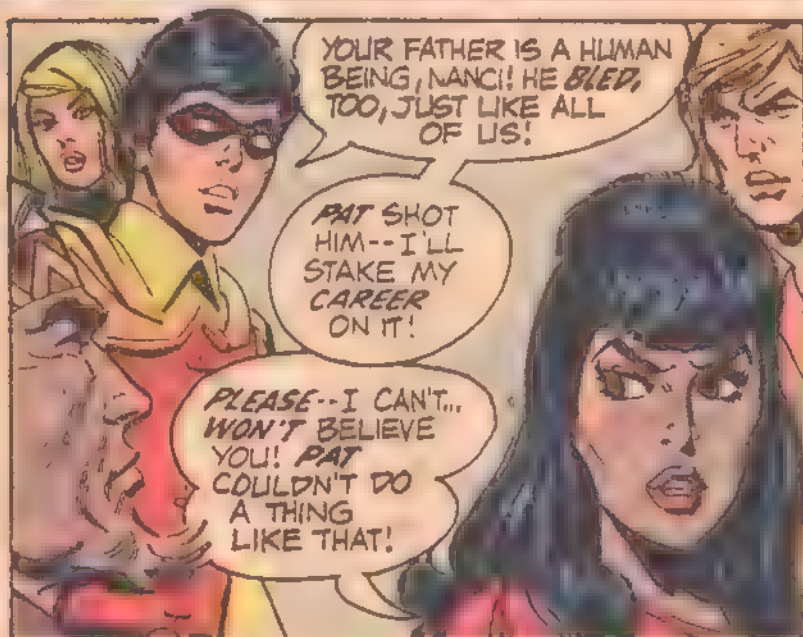
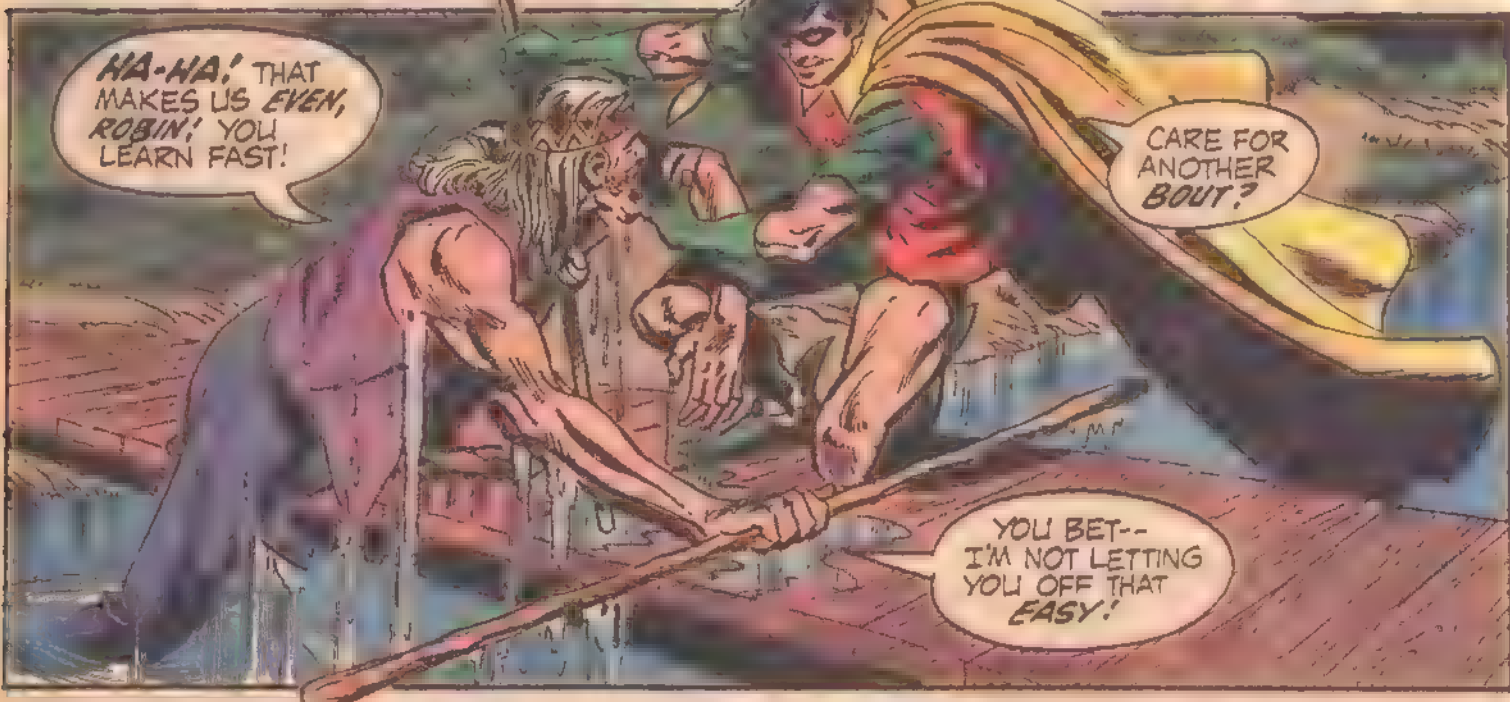
"WE'VE DAMMED OUR UNPOLLUTED STREAM FOR DRINKING WATER AND IRRIGATION FOR OUR CROPS..."

"OUR KIDS LEARN HOW TO COPE WITH LIFE BY LIVING IT-- LEARNING FROM THEIR ELDERS 'ON THE JOB'! THE S ALSO SET ASIDE TO TEACH THE BASIC '3-R'S' NEEDED TO SURVIVE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD..."

"THERE WAS EVEN A PURPOSE FOR YOUR 'BATTLING' ME TO ENTER THE COMMUNE! WE'VE RECOGNIZED THAT WE MUST HAVE CAREFUL *RITUAL-TRADITIONS*, WITHOUT WHICH OUR COMMUNITY CAN GROW NO ROOTS..."



"JUSTICE SURFACES IN MANY WAYS! THOUGH THE ROOTS MAY BE LONGER THAN EXPECTED, IN ALL SOCIETIES DOES IT PREVAIL! WATCH..."



SOON AFTER--KARATE INSTRUCTION,
COURTESY, BROWN BELT-HOLDER,
ROBIN!...

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE
OF KARATE IS--IF AT
ALL POSSIBLE--TO
AVOID COMBAT!

ONLY WHEN
COMPLETELY FORCED
TO, DOES ONE FIGHT--
AND THEN WITH THE
LEAST NECESSARY
FORCE TO PROTECT
ONESELF!

THE IDEA IS TO
HIT 'EM HARD AND
WIPE 'EM OUT, SO
THEY WON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING!

I REMEMBER ONCE
WHEN WE CORNERED
A DEAN...

JUSTICE SURFACES IN MANY
WAYS. THOUGH THE WAY IS
MORE DIFFERENT THAN
ROBIN HAS EVER EXPERI-
ENCED, HE WILL SOON GET
HIS DAY...

PAT WHALON--
THE COMMUNITY
HAS DECIDED TO
HEAR THE CASE
BROTHER
ROBIN BRINGS
AGAINST YOU!

WHAT--?! DON'T
TELL ME YOU
BELIEVE HIM?

WE HAVE NOT
TAKEN SIDES!
WE WISH TO
HEAR BOTH
SIDES--AND
THEN JUDGE!

MEET US
TONIGHT AT THE
COMMUNITY
CAMPFIRE!

FOR SOONER OR LATER THE
COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES INJUSTICE--
AND BEGINS TO CORRECT IT!

NOW—YOURS FROM COLUMBIA—

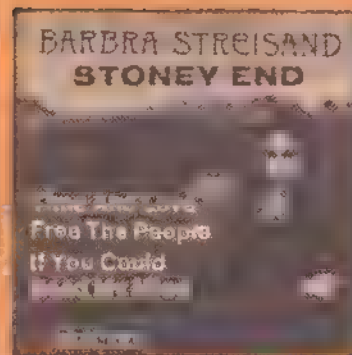
Any 8 tapes or



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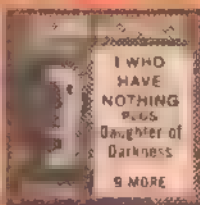
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195741



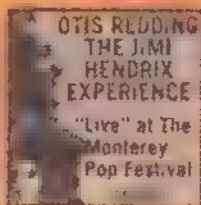
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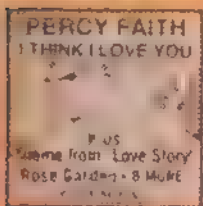
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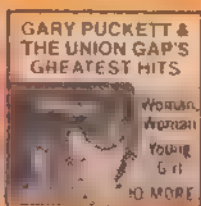
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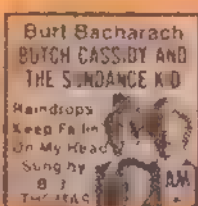
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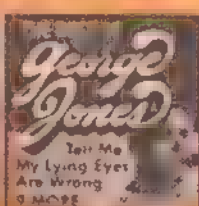
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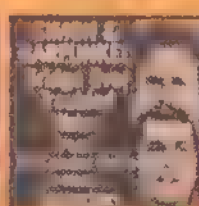
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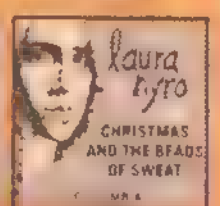
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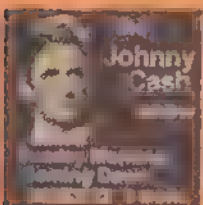
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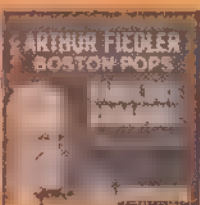
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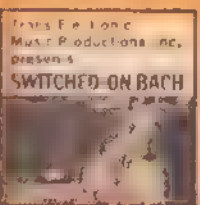
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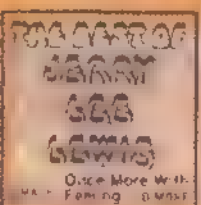
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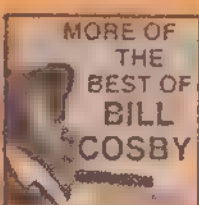
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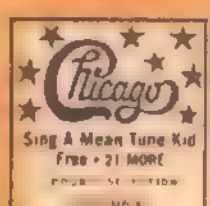
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191817



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196725



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* Songs only marked with a star are not available in reel tapes

QQ-61,874

AT TRULY GREAT SAVINGS...

records ~~for~~ \$3.98

If you join now and agree to buy as few as seven selections during the coming year

Take your pick



8-TRACK CARTRIDGES



OR
TAPE CASSETTES



OR
REEL-TO-REEL TAPES



OR
12" LP RECORDS



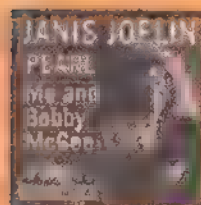
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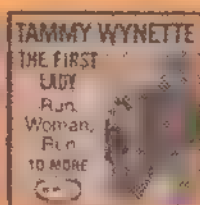
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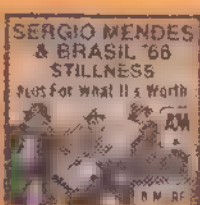
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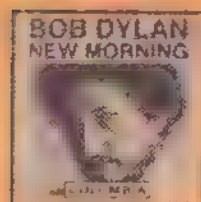
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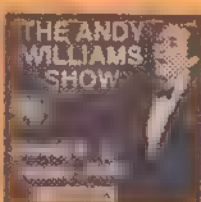
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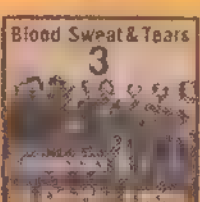
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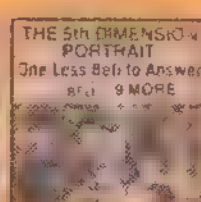
196493



191825



194563 *



191205



197913

available in your choice of 8-Track Cartridges OR Tape Cassettes OR Reel-to-Reel Tapes OR 12" LP Records! So no matter which type of stereo playback equipment you now have — you can take advantage of this introductory offer.

mail the coupon provided, together with your check or money order for \$3.98 as payment in full. Indicate which type of recorded music you prefer . . . cartridges, cassettes, reel tapes or records . . . and your eight selections will be sent promptly. Also be sure to indicate the field of music in which you are mainly interested.

you will receive, every four weeks, an informative music magazine — describing the regular selection for the month, and scores upon scores of alternate selections from every field of music.

If you do not want any selection in any month — merely return the special card by the date specified. If you want only the regular selection, do nothing — it will be shipped to you automatically. Or use the card to order any of the alternate selections offered. And from time to time, we will offer some special selections, which you may reject by returning the special dated form provided — or accept by doing nothing.

your account will be opened upon enrollment when you pay for your selections only after you have received them. They will be mailed and billed to you at our regular prices: cartridges and cassettes, \$6.98; reel-to-reel tapes, \$7.98; records, \$4.98 . . . plus a mailing and handling charge. Occasional special selections may be somewhat higher.)

Your only obligation is to buy seven selections during the coming year. After doing so, you have no further obligation — and you may cancel membership at any time. If you decide to continue, you will be eligible for our generous bonus plan — which can save you at least 33% on all your future purchases! Act now!

COLUMBIA HOUSE, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

Please accept my membership. I am interested in this type of recorded entertainment; (check one only)

- ☐ 8-Track Cartridges G17-8/GK
☐ Tape Cassettes G17-9/GI
☐ Reel-to-Reel Tape G47-4/HG
☐ 12" LP Records N41-4/MF

Send me these eight selections, for which I have enclosed my check or money order for \$3.98 as payment in full.

(write in numbers of the eight selections you want)

I agree to buy seven selections during the coming year, and may cancel membership any time thereafter. If I continue, I will be eligible for your bonus plan. All selections will be described in advance in the Club magazine, sent every four weeks. If I do not want any selection, I'll return the selection card by the date specified — or use the card to order any other selection. If I want only the regular selection, I need do nothing — it will be sent automatically. From time to time, I'll be offered special selections which I may accept or reject by using the dated form.

MY MAIN MUSICAL INTEREST IS (check one box only)

- ☐ Easy Listening ☐ Young Sounds ☐ Country

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss. (Please Print) First Name Initial Last Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

Do You Have A Telephone? (check one) ☐ YES . . . ☐ NO

APO, FPO addresses; write for special offer

Columbia House

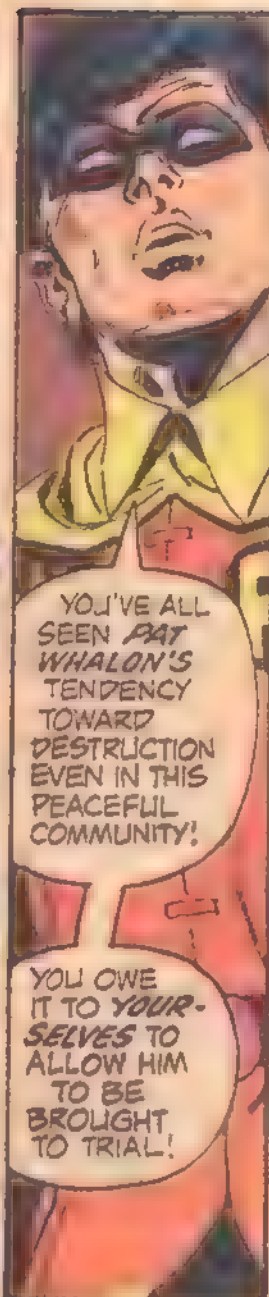
Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

OFTEN HAS **ROBIN** SERVED JUSTICE WITH HIS SKILLS IN COMBAT--BUT IN HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS, SOMETHING MORE IS PUT TO THE TEST...

YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE WHAT TO ACCEPT AND REJECT IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE--BUT NOT TO **IGNORE** IT!

REGARDLESS OF HIS JOB, A MAN WAS VIOLENTLY **SHOT**--YOUR "FAMILY" DOESN'T END AT THE COMMUNE'S BOUNDARIES!

POLICEMAN ROBERT BEEKER IS PART OF IT... AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM!



YOU'VE ALL SEEN **PAT WHALON'S** TENDENCY TOWARD DESTRUCTION EVEN IN THIS PEACEFUL COMMUNITY!

YOU OWE IT TO **YOURSELVES** TO ALLOW HIM TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL!

AND SO IT GOES, ALL THROUGH THE DARK NIGHT, UNTIL JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK...

THE COMMUNITY HAS AGREED TO ALLOW **ROBIN** TO PLACE **PAT WHALON** UNDER ARREST!

WHAT--?!

PAT, PLEASE... THAT'S THE DECISION! THE TRIAL WILL PROVE YOU INNOCENT!

SUDDENLY, WITH UNEXPECTED SWIFTNESS...

LOOK! **PAT** WAS **FAKING** HIS LIMP! HIS FOOT HAS **HEALED**!

KEEP **BACK**, YOU WEAK-KNEES!

SURE, I SHOT **NANCY'S** OLD MAN--HE WAS ABOUT TO UNCOVER A **BOMBING RING** I'D HELPED OUT!

YOU'RE ALL LIKE HIM--AGAINST **OUR** MOVEMENT!

--AND LIKE HIM, IF YOU'RE NOT WITH US, YOU'VE GOT TO **GO**!

THEN WITH A DESTRUCTIVE GLEAM IN HIS EYE, **PAT WHALON** RACES OFF!

HOT-PURSUIT
SECONDS LATER...

THERE HE
IS--HEADING
FOR THE
WOODS:

HE'S STARTING A
BRUSHFIRE! HE
MUST WANT TO
WIPE US ALL OUT!

CRACKLING DRY-
BUSHES SNAP
WITH A *DIFFERENT*
SOUND NOW...

THE DAWN-
CRACKED MORNING
SKY SUDDENLY
STREAKS WITH A
FERY HOLOCALST
OF BRIGHTENING
FLAME...

BE HERE FOR NEXT ISSUE'S "RAIN-FIRE!"

BATMAN

With
ROBIN

FOR THIS ISSUE'S "EXTRA ATTRACTION" WE RETURN TO A NOSTALGIC ERA, WHEN **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TEAMED UP AS THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CRIME-FIGHTING DUO... IN --

CASTLE WITH WALL-TO-WALL DANGER!



STORY BY:
JOHN BROOME

ART BY:
CARMINE INFANTINO
& JOE GIELLA

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN DETECTIVE COMICS #329; JULY, 1964



A BATMAN CLASSIC



AS WEALTHY SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE BREAKFASTS WITH HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON

BRUCE, IT'S THE "HOT-LINE" EXTENSION!"

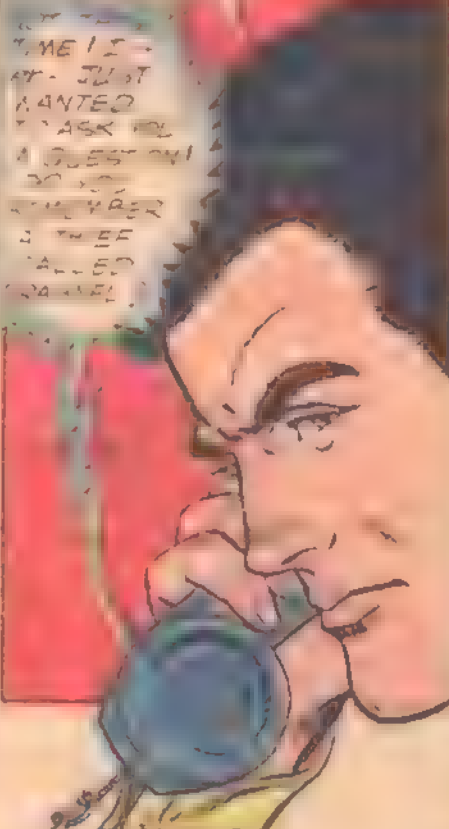
I'LL TAKE IT, DICK!



EDITOR'S NOTE: THE "HOT-LINE" PROVIDES A DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND BATMAN'S BATCAVE.

BUT WHEN "BATMAN" ANSWERS THE PHONE...

EMERGENCY CALL, COMMISSIONER GORDON!



FRANK PRAGNEL? HOW COULD I FORGET HIM, COMMISSIONER! HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE JUNGLE WHO ELUDED ME DURING A ONE-MONTH CRIME SPLURGE IN GOTHAM CITY! NEVER COULD FIND A TRACE OF HIM...



THAT'S THE ONE! NOW TELL ME-- HAVE YOU GOT A COPY OF THIS WEEK'S LIFETIME MAGAZINE HANDY?

WHY-- YES! THE COMMISSIONER HERE IS ACTING STRANGE-- AS IF HE'S PLAYING SOME SORT OF JOKE ON ME!



TURN TO PAGE 56... I HAVE TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE PHOTOGRAPH.. IT... eh??



THE CAPTION UNDER THE PICTURE READS: "A MAN'S CASTLE IS HIS HOME IN ENGLAND... BUT THIS MAN, ALBERT MAUNCH, STROLLS THROUGH HIS ESTATE."

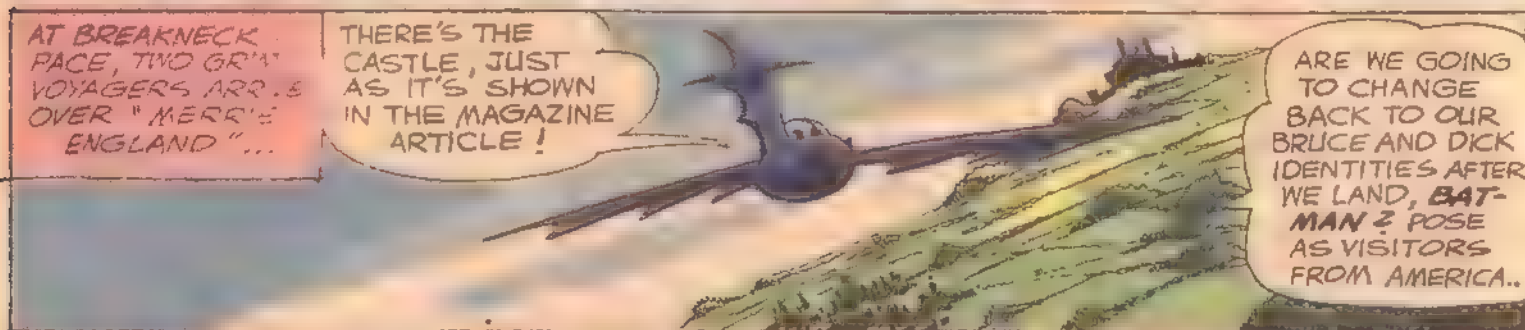
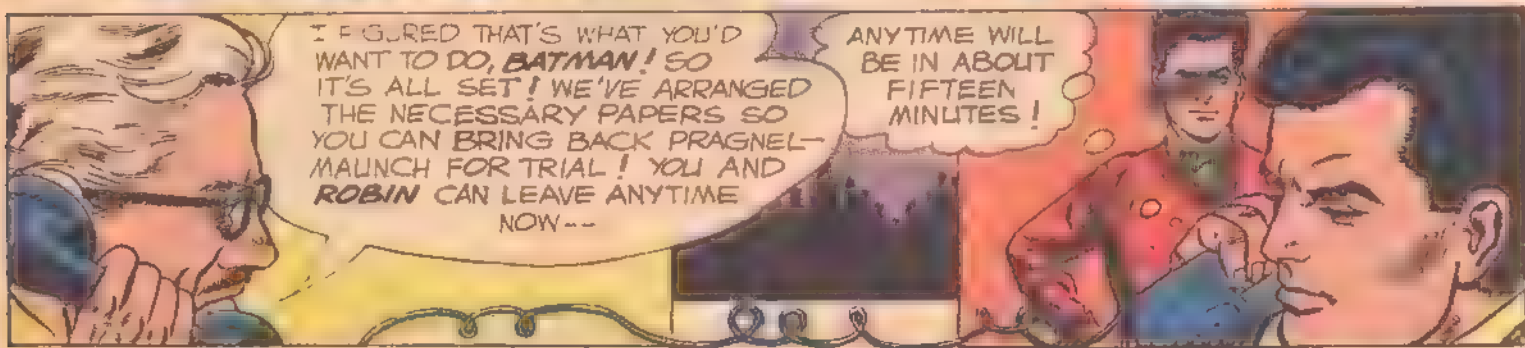
... ALBERT MAUNCH... THAT'S THE FACE OF PRAGNEL!

YES! FOR ALL WE KNOW... THAT'S HIS REAL NAME!





A BATMAN CLASSIC



LATEST SSP

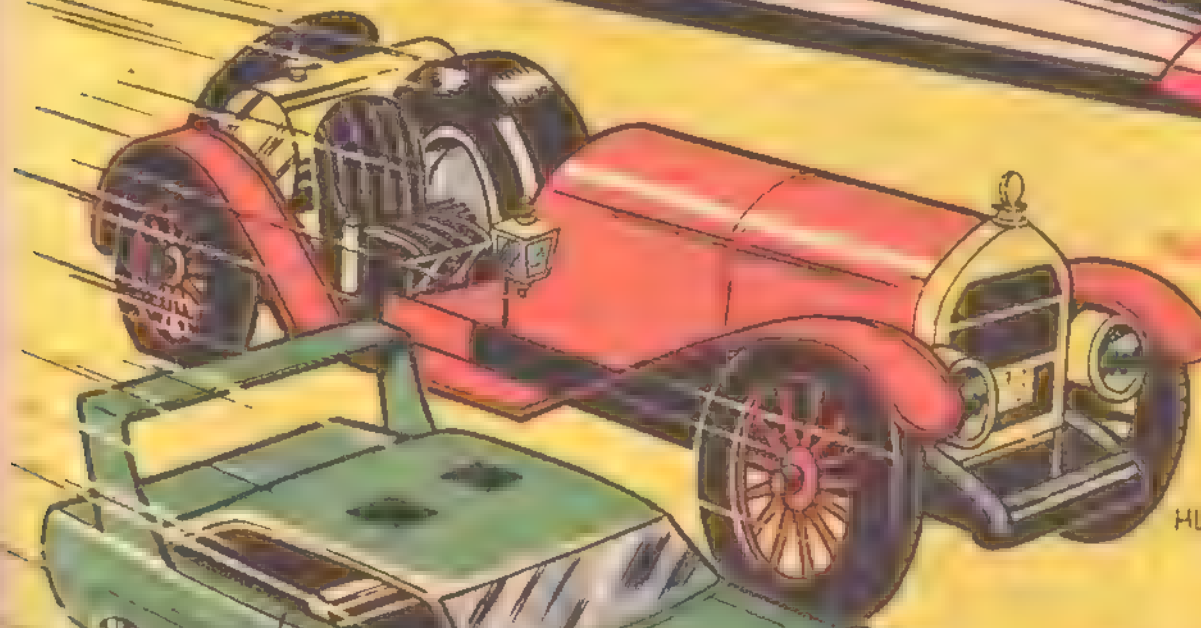


NEWS FLASH!

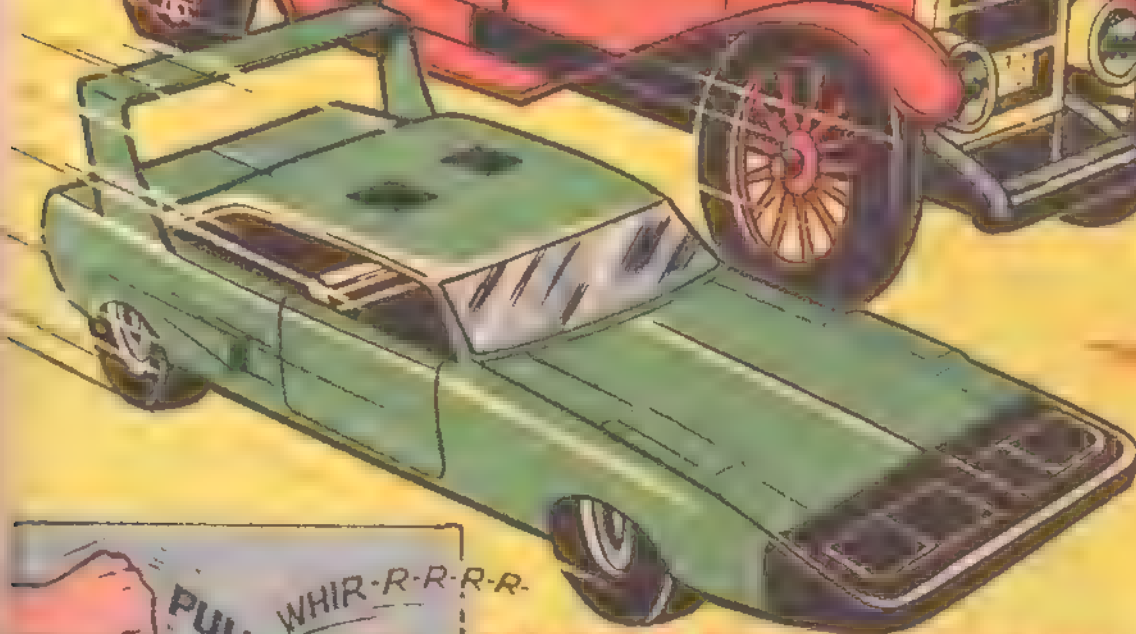
GET KENNER'S NEWEST
RACERS NOW!



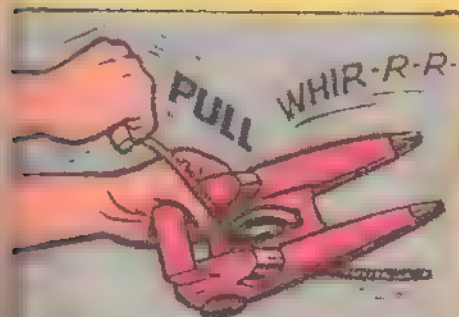
8 1/2" LONG. SLEEK, SHINY BLACK VEHICLE WITH RUBBER-LIKE NOSE CONE AND 2 VERTICAL TAIL FINS. CLEAR CANOPY WITH HELMETED DRIVER. LARGE "CHROME" ENGINE.



6 1/4" LONG. MODIFIED FROM CLASSIC 1914 AUTO - ONE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS ROADSTERS IN AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY. HAS "CHROME" HUBCAPS AND EXHAUST.



8 3/4" LONG. GYRO-WHEEL HIDDEN IN THIS MODEL. REPLICA OF PLYMOUTH-DAYTONA STOCK CAR RACER. COMES WITH RUBBER-LIKE NOSE AND HAS A VERY HIGH AIR FOIL.



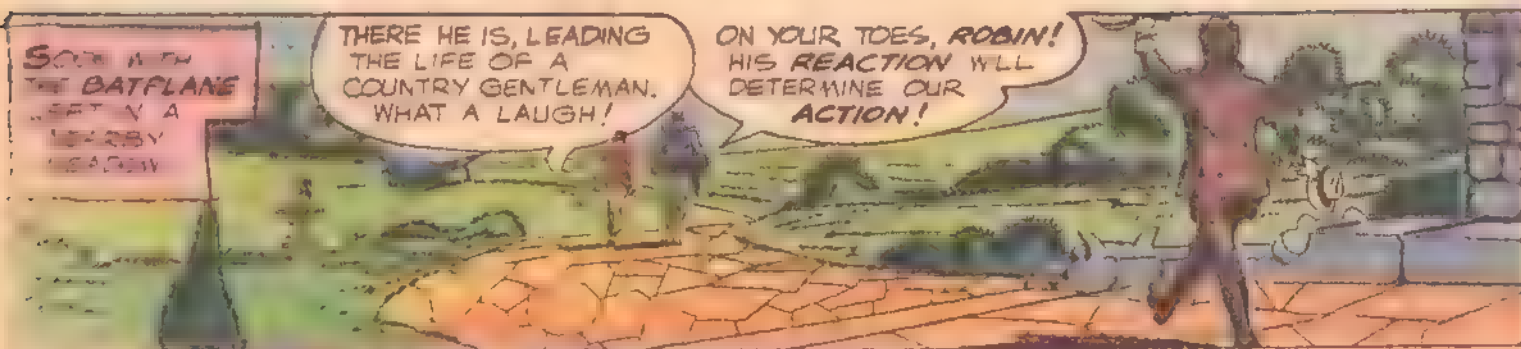
READY TO RACE...
NO BATTERIES! NO TRACK!
STOMP-POWERED!

COLLECT & RACE ALL THE EXCITING SSP RACERS





A BATMAN CLASSIC



SOON WITH
THE BATFLAME
LEFT V A
LEADY
HEADY

THERE HE IS, LEADING
THE LIFE OF A
COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.
WHAT A LAUGH!

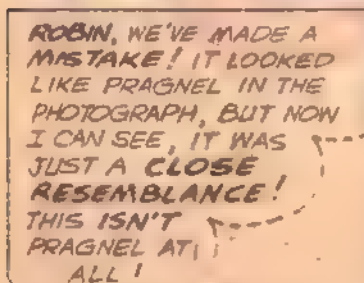
ON YOUR TOES, ROBIN!
HIS REACTION WILL
DETERMINE OUR
ACTION!



GOOD
GOSH!

GOOD
GOSH!

BATMAN AND ROBIN! THE
FAMOUS AMERICAN CRIME--
FIGHTERS-- HERE IN
ENGLAND! THIS IS
AN HONOR-- AND A
SURPRISE!



ROBIN, WE'VE MADE A
MISTAKE! IT LOOKED
LIKE PRAGNEL IN THE
PHOTOGRAPH, BUT NOW
I CAN SEE, IT WAS
JUST A CLOSE
RESEMBLANCE!
THIS ISN'T
PRAGNEL AT ALL!

WHY ARE
YOU BOTH
STARING
AT ME
LIKE
THAT?

AS THE COWLED
CRUSADER BRIEFLY
EXPLAINS...

IT'S A CASE OF
MISTAKEN IDENTITY,
MR MAUNCH! WE
CAME HERE THINKING
YOU WERE SOMEONE
ELSE! NOW THAT
WE'VE FOUND OUT
THE TRUTH, THERE'S
NO POINT IN PRO-
LONGING THIS
INTERVIEW...

YOU'RE
ABOUT
TO
LEAVE?
BUT
YOU'VE
COME
FROM
SO
FAR...

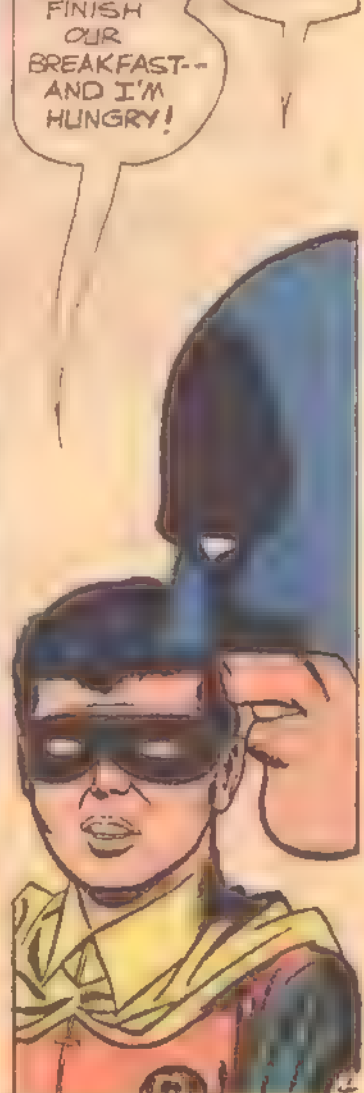
I INSIST YOU BOTH STAY
FOR DINNER! WHEN WORD
GETS ABOUT THAT BAT-
MAN AND ROBIN ARE
GUESTS HERE IN MY
CASTLE, THE ENTIRE
COUNTRY'S DE WIL-
BUZZ WITH THE NEWS!

WE REALLY
HAVE TO
GET BACK--

UMM--
THAT
SMELL--
ROAST--
BEEF
AND
YORK-
SHIRE
PUDDING

GOSH,
BATMAN,
COULDN'T
WE STAY
JUST A
FEW HOURS?
WE LEFT
AMERICA
SO FAST,
WE DIDN'T
FINISH
OUR
BREAKFAST--
AND I'M
HUNGRY!

NOW THAT
YOU
MENTION
IT,
ROBIN,
SO AM
I!
OKAY,
WE'LL
STAY!





A BATMAN CLASSIC



AS THE CASTLE-OWNER PROUDLY USHERS HIS GUESTS INTO HIS ANTIQUE DOMICILE

YOU TWO CAN USE THIS ROOM WHILE YOU'RE HERE! I'LL SEE ABOUT DINNER-- AND CALL YOU AS SOON AS IT'S READY! RIGHTO?

FINE!

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PLACE THIS IS...



...IT JUST REEKS WITH AGE!

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO LOCAL LEGEND KING ALFRED THE GREAT ONCE LIVED HERE! AND THIS WAS HIS ROYAL CHAMBER.



YES, I GUESS MALUNCH WANTS TO HONOR US BY PUTTING US HERE! WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL TURN THIS TRIP INTO A BIT OF A HOLIDAY, **ROBIN!** IT ISN'T EVERY AMERICAN THAT GETS INVITED INTO A GENUINE MEDIEVAL ENGLISH CASTLE! THOUGH I CAN'T HELP FEELING **DIS-APPOINTED...** I THOUGHT WE HAD PRAGNEL-- AND NOW IT SEEMS ONCE AGAIN WE'VE SLOPPED THROUGH OUR FINGERS-- EH?

BATMAN AND ROBIN!

IT'S MR. MAUNCH-- CALLING THROUGH THAT TUBE!

HALLCOO! DINNER READY WHEN EVER YOU'VE TAD AR! BETTER CARRY A CANDLE DOWN-- IT'S GETTING DARK!

WE'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



ANCIENT SPEAKING TUBES! I WONDER IF THIS CASTLE HAS ANY OTHER SURPRISES FOR US, ROBIN?

RIGHT NOW, WITH THAT SMELL COMING UP, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT FOOD!

OH? MY FOOT--

THE NEXT INSTANT...

I--I STEPPED ON SOME KIND OF SPRING-- A TRIGGERING DEVICE THAT OPENED THAT TRAPDOOR BELOW-- CAUSING BATMAN TO FALL THROUGH!

BATMAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? BATMAN--!

THE DOOR CLOSED TIGHT! HARD EVEN TO SEE WHERE IT OPENED--!

MEANWHILE BELOW, THE MASKED TARRUNTER IS FALLING HELP-LESSLY ...

...TO WHERE?

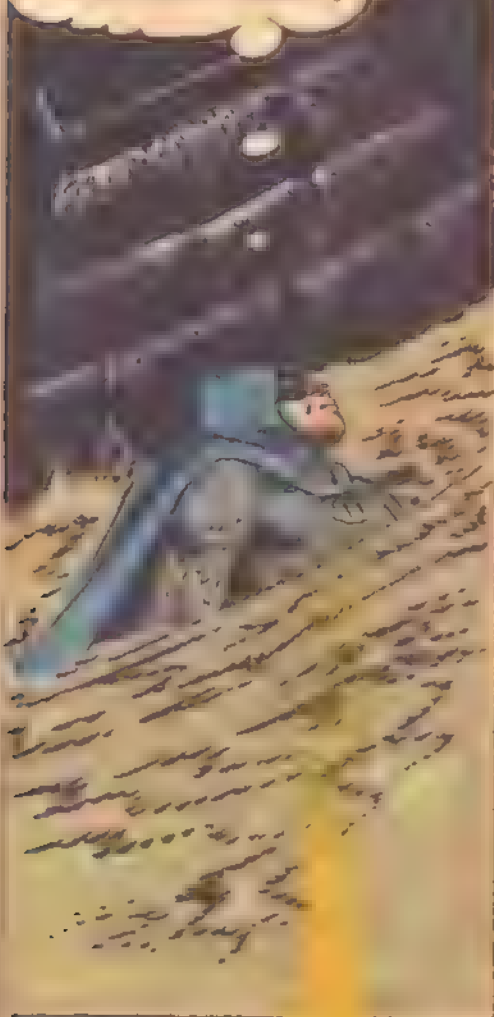


A BATMAN CLASSIC

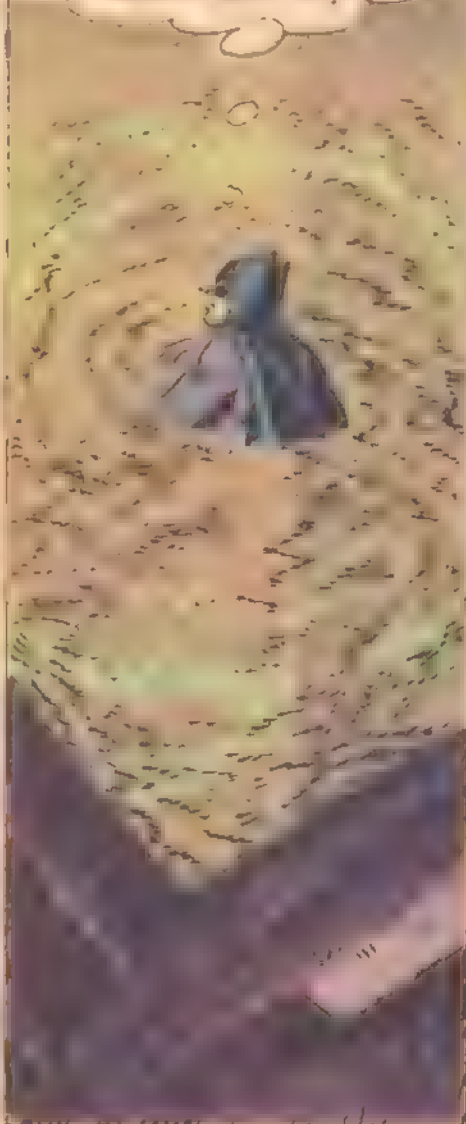


IN THE DIMLY-LIT INTERIOR
OF BATMAN'S EYES GRIM
ACCUSTOMED TO THE DARK-
NESS.

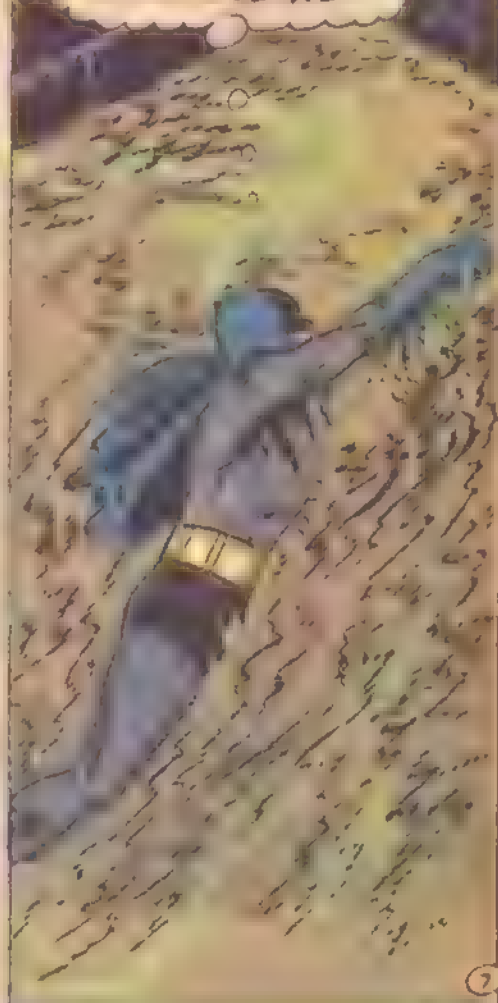
I'VE LANDED IN A
BED OF QUICKSAND AT THE
BOTTOM OF THIS PLACE THAT
LOOKS LIKE A DUNGEON!
MUST KEEP MY HEAD...
MUSTN'T MAKE ANY
SUDDEN MOVES... OR
I'LL SINK LOWER!



FORMER OWNERS OF THIS
CASTLE MUST HAVE USED
THIS LAYOUT TO GET R.D.
OF THEIR ENEMIES IN THE
OLD DAYS! AND NOW IT
SEEMS SOMEONE'S TRYING
THE IDEA ON ME! BUT I
WON'T BUY IT!



ONLY PANIC CAN HARM ME!
IF I KEEP MY HEAD AND MOVE
SLOWLY LIKE THIS... I CAN
SWIM THROUGH THIS
QUICKSAND... JUST AS
I WOULD THROUGH WATER,
KEEPING PARALLEL WITH
THE SURFACE! BUT
SLOWLY... SLOWLY...



STORY CONTINUES ON
THE 32-PAGE FOLLOWING...

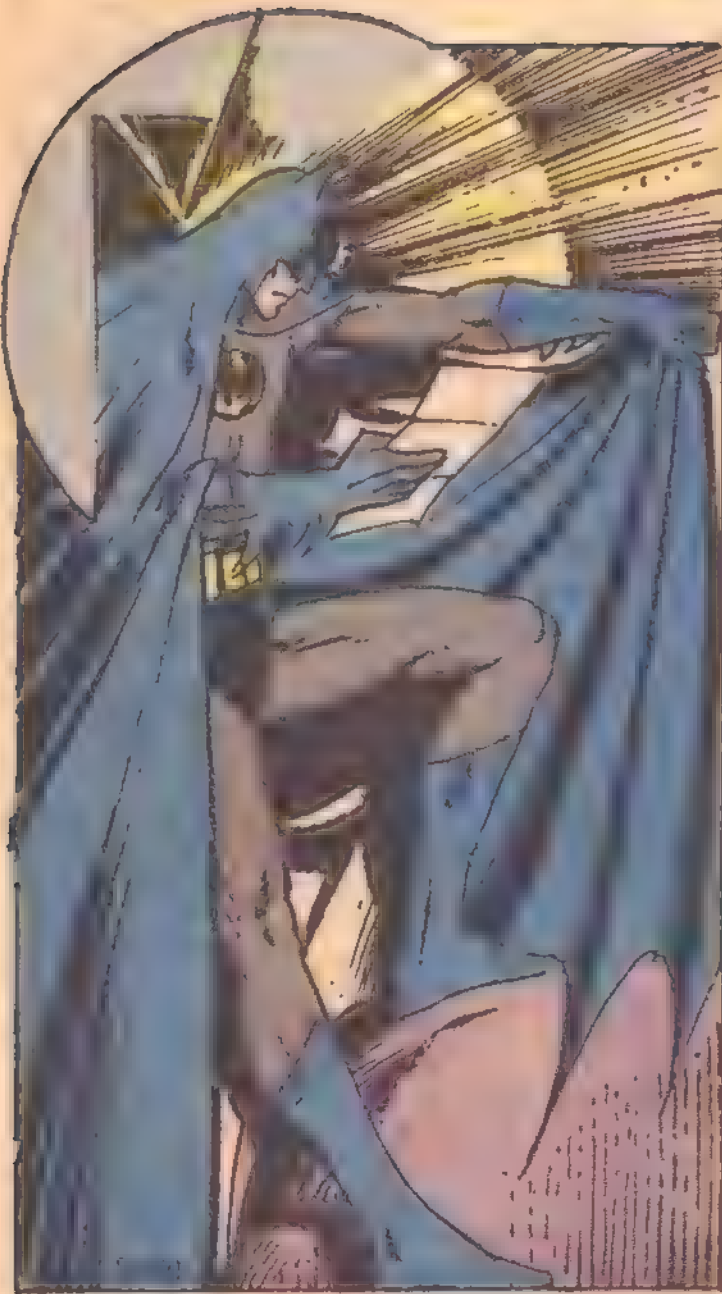
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LETTERS to the BATMAN

barren—there was no jet-starter available, so **Batman** could never have turned up his plane to take off in the last panel.

I think the majority of your readers are not in any position to know anything about aircraft mechanics and they may even have liked the story. I might have liked it, too—IF I hadn't have known better.

I want to thank artist Novick for taking the time to research what he would be drawing so that he produced the only realism in the story. The F-4 didn't act like an F-4 but at least it **looked** like an F-4. IF Mr. Robbins was as meticulous in his writing as Mr. Novick was in his art, you, Mr. Schwartz might have gotten a nicer letter from me.

—JIM O'BRIEN, Oberlin, Ohio

(Frankly, we're a know-nothing when it comes to aircraft mechanics . . . so to fill in for us in the answer department we called upon author Robbins himself.—JS)

Well, Jim O'Brien . . .

Since you're telling me inside-info from behind the "classified-curtain", let me let you in on our **Batman** barracks-room secrets.

First off, if you'd been as observant as you claim I haven't been, you'd have seen that **The Batman's** plane is a two-seater! (Page 10, panel 3). Else he couldn't have taken Reardon back with him!

Second, since **The Batman's** privately built Batjet (patterned after our best, the F-4) has no radio-man navigator, the space normally allotted to bulky electronic equipment is available for extra-fuel capacity, for long-range flight! (P.S. His flight only **seemed** to take a moment. I don't think you'd want to sweat out five pages of flight-time!)

Third (and probably first), if you think I going to tell our **enemies** in public print exactly how to start a Phantom Jet . . . you've blown your mind! Naturally, **The Batman** has a built-in, concealed back-up starting system for his jet . . . governed by a single ignition key!

Fourth, obviously this kind of Yankee ingenuity is necessary since it is unlikely that this will be the last abandoned airstrip **The Batman** may land on, unaided! Unless . . . he gets your very able talents to assist him wherever he goes!

So—now that I've restored **The Batman's** air of realism to the story, how'd you like it?

—FRANK ROBBINS, New York, N.Y.

(And while we're waiting for this follow-up airmail response, let us tune in on the thought-waves of Mr. Average Critic.—JS)

Dear Editor:

As long as I'm going to go around slicing up Frank Robbins, I should at least have the decency to let him know when he turns out a winner. **Batman** #231 contained just that in "Blind Rage of the Ten-Eyed Man!"

Everything flowed smoothly from beginning to end with precise movement, intrigue and suspense, rare to his previous stories, with the exception of the **Man-Bat** stories. The art meshed well with the script. Here's hoping Frank makes stories like this one more than occasional flukes!

As for the **Robin** "Wiped Out" yarn, it made a very nice wrap-up, cleaning the slate for a new story-line. Unlike what seems to be close to a majority,

Dear Editor:

I have finished the Man with Ten Eyes sequel in **Batman** #231 and have a few comments.

First, I like the new Batmobile. It's better than that heap with the one-way windshield.

And then I saw the new Batplane—it really grabbed me. At first I thought Frank Robbins had a great new innovation, but by the end of his story that feeling had been dashed.

Since I am a four-year veteran of the Marine Corps' Air Wing, I recognized America's fastest line of defense, the F-4 Phantom Jet, immediately. I spent my time working on the Grumman A-6 Intruder, but since F-4 squadrons were stationed on either side of us, I learned something of their operations, if only by watching their flight-line.

First of all, every F-4 I ever saw or heard of was a two-seater—the man in the back operating navigation and communications. Second, an F-4 burns a heck of a lot of fuel. Flying to 'Nam would require several time-consuming fuel stops or in-flight refueling—yet, to me, it is portrayed as being an almost momentary flight. Thirdly, would the Pentagon give even **Batman** a highly classified and confidential jet? Where would it be kept securely? Etc., etc.

Now, for a short lesson in aircraft starting. To start an A-6, you (editorially censored) . . . The F-4 uses this jet-start and I can conceive of no other way to start a jet-plane. Thus, on page ten, with the introduction of an ignition key, the bottom falls out, the reality is gone, the rest of the story is science-fiction and a farce at that. You don't turn on the key and step on the accelerator, man. Also, since the landing field in 'Nam is depicted as being

I find this strip very enjoyable, especially recent episodes. Mike Friedrich is fast becoming one of the field's top scripters. I hope that he won't have Dick's secret identity and relationship to Terri (I like her) mimic that of the Peter Parker-Gwen Stacy relationship.

—JOHN D. Warner, Santa Cruz, Cal.

Dear Editor:

"Blind Rage of the Ten-Eyed Man" was another of Frank Robbins' usually fine stories. You have to admire this guy's style. A stickler for details, he doesn't let detail dominate the story.

Reardon (Ten-Eyes) is a welcome change. Batman needs some new adversaries in this category. When Man-Bat made his debut in Detective #400, he showed promise. But in each of his follow-up appearances, he was more limited, until he just wasn't interesting anymore. I expected the same with Ten Eyes: a plot used over and over again, with only small changes in script. So score one for you. Reardon's second appearance was as good as his first. He seems to reflect a touch of the Golden Age in his creation. His personality has been developed just right; his one motivation is to inflict his own punishment on the man he holds responsible for his blindness; The Batman. But since this is his only reason for being a criminal, it would be wise to drop him for a while, or he'll get stale. But don't let him go—he's good for a couple more appearances. Now if we fanatics could only get you to bring back Scarecrow, Catwoman, etc.

The Robin story was much improved over Part One in the previous issue. Things went so fast it was hard to keep up, but at least it was interesting! Terri Bergstrom is a long-awaited angel of mercy. I don't think I could have stood another of Dick Grayson's crushes on a one-shot character. Besides, Terri's little cryptic statements here and there really have me going. Does she know something Dick doesn't? Or something that Dick doesn't know she knows?

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

(All we know is that Mike Friedrich better know! —JS)

Dear Editor:

Since the first story about the Man with Ten Eyes prompted me to write a letter pointing out five things wrong with the tale, I guess it is only fitting that the sequel should result in five more complaints. So here goes:

(1) Batman, the great detective, while trying to find Reardon, obviously never looked at a photo of his quarry or he would have recognized him as the Man with Ten Eyes.

(2) Nobody from the airline seems to question Reardon's credentials or bothers to check up on him before they hire him. If they had, they would have found out that he was wanted in connection with the robbery.

(3) Whoever heard of any pilot being able to land a passenger-jet in the middle of a jungle and then taking off again?

(4) Though I don't think that Batman would have jumped in the Batjet and flown away, leaving Reardon alone in the jungle, it seems pretty stupid on the Caped Crusader's part to leave the ignition key where Ten Eyes could get it.

(5) And finally, though I don't know much about magnesium flares, it seems to me that the "Bouncing Betty" exploding at such close range should have scorched Batman's costume (and Batman) a

No doubt we have not seen the last of the Man with Ten Eyes; so rest assured that when he reappears, I'll be back with another five nays. (Ten eyes, nays. Get it?)

—BOB RAZAKIS, Elmont, N.Y.

... will get you ten you'll have run out of nay's by

the time a third Ten-Eyed Man comes your way.—JS)

Dear Editor:

Of late, you've been going all out on your Batman covers, as evidenced by the current one (#281). It was an intriguing lead-in to a fabulous story.

Frank Robbins was in a terrible slump. Up until "Blind Rage of the Ten-Eyed Man", there'd been only one tale of his in the last two months that was any good. Now Mr. Robbins is back once more on the upward road. This second yarn in the Ten-Eyed Man series has definitely made me hungry for more. Since the chances of seeing more Man-Bat tales are nil, I hope you follow up on Ten Eyes again soon.

This tale was succulently spiced by a different setting, surprising plot twists, a highly literate style of writing, and photographic art. The Novick-Giordano team becomes more Adams-like with every issue.

No one can surpass Mike Friedrich as a Rob-in-scripter. "Wiped Out" was extremely well-plotted and interestingly written, with a sharp sense of continuity and effective interweaving of plot-lines.

—GERARD TRIANO, Elmont, N.Y.

(If the chances are "nil" (your estimate) for another Man-Bat story (we've scheduled "Man-Bat Madness" for the October Detective), the chance should be equally good for another Ten Eyes seeing Print.—JS)

Dear Editor:

In a short five years, the Batman of television, caped clown and butt of every bat-joke ever made, has risen above his past standards of excellence. No longer are the stories ridiculous with fantastic scientific gizmos that do everything under the sun. In the past year of Batman stories, the readers have seen only a rope and the occasional batarang come out of the utility belt.

But still, jeers will persist as the mere mention of Batman to non-readers conjures up ideas of a fat clown that is the sum total of all camp. The movie version was not too bad and helped to round out his following with different personalities. But television was his downfall.

Likewise with The Batman whose adventures on the silver screen in 1943 and 1949 are to be admired as good efforts even today, but whose TV series was found wanting.

Today, Neal Adams (winner of the Goethe Award for best artist) has breathed new life into Batman. Denny O'Neil has thrown his literary talents into the cauldron, to be stirred and simmered into the best Batmans to date.

Indeed, the Batman has returned to the very elements which made his popularity so universal in the late thirties and early forties. Fear. Darkness. Lightning. Rainstorms. Mysteriousness. So successful are these, that no reader has commented on the increasing amounts of precipitation in Gotham City in recent months! With the very air of mysteriousness that it lends to the feature, disagreement with it would only result in a great void that has all-too-recently been filled.

I could close this letter by saying, "Don't change Batman; just leave him the way he is"—but that would never do. For the way of DC in the seventies is not that of stagnation. With The Batman, it has never been that way!

—DAVE SIM, Kitchener, Ont., Can.

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.



A BATMAN CLASSIC



CASTLE WITH DANGER

PART 2

CAREFULLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE TRAPPED CRUSADER SWIM-STROKES HIS WAY TO A SHEER BLOCK WALL...

GOT TO USE THE CRACKS BETWEEN THE STONE BLOCKS...TO HAUL MYSELF UP SOMEHOW! THAT SLIT WINDOW--

AS MUSCLES STRAIN MIGHTILY...

THE SAND CLINGS... LIKE LIQUID LEAD! I WEIGH A TON!! BUT I'M GETTING UP OUT OF IT...I'M PULLING LOOSE!

AT THE LONE APERTURE, AFTER AN AGONY OF EFFORT...

I CAN JUST BARELY SLIDE THROUGH!! *Whew!!* ONE INCH NARROWER AND I'D STILL BE IN TROUBLE!

SHORTLY, A REUNION, MARKED BY ROBIN'S HEARTFELT RELIEF AT HIS FRIEND'S SAFETY...

...AND RIGHT AFTER YOU DISAPPEARED I TRIED TO FIND MARSH--TO HELP ME REACH YOU! BUT NO SIGN OF HIM...

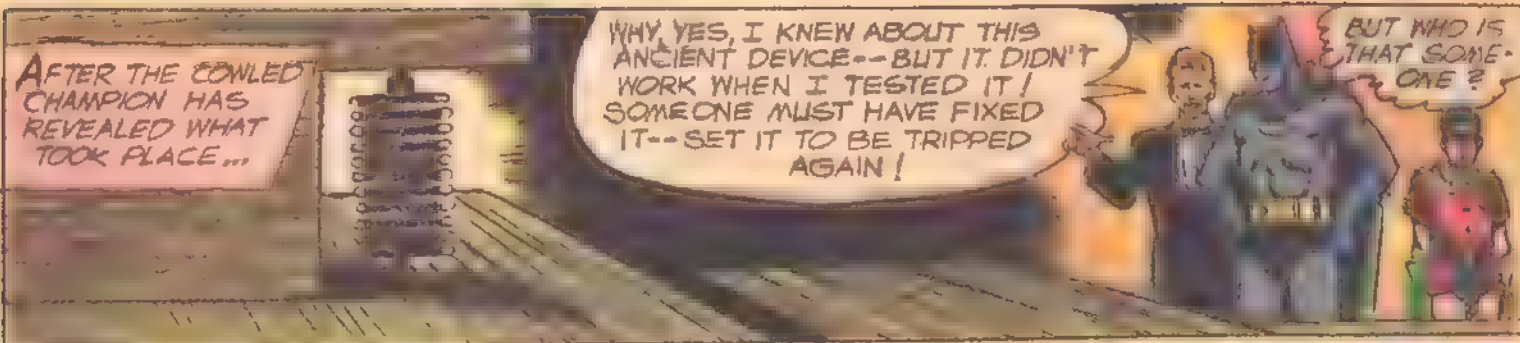
HERE HE IS NOW...

WHAT HAPPENED!? BATMAN-- IS ANYTHING WRONG?

HE KNOWS SOMETHING HAPPENED--! BUT I CAN'T PIN IT ON HIM YET...



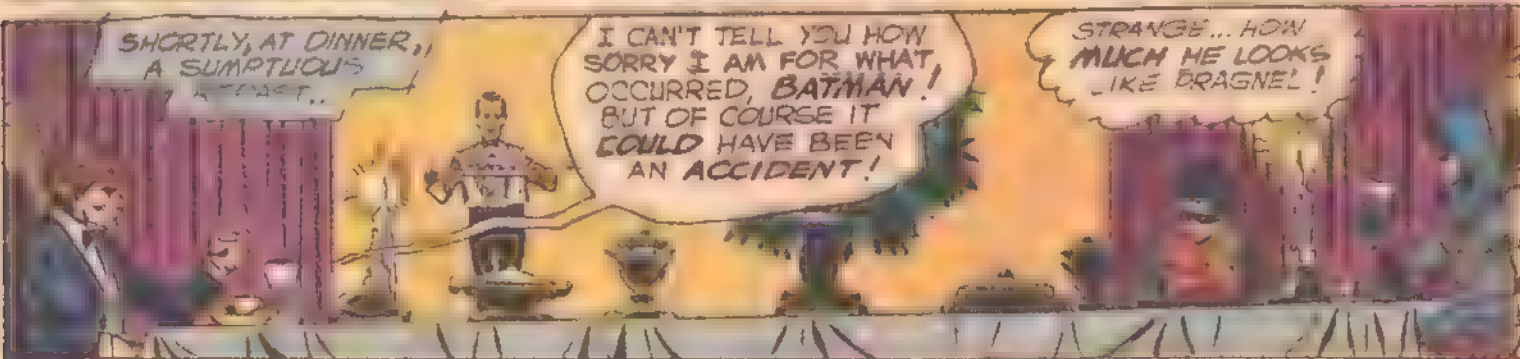
A BATMAN CLASSIC



AFTER THE COWLED CHAMPION HAS REVEALED WHAT TOOK PLACE...

WHY, YES, I KNEW ABOUT THIS ANCIENT DEVICE-- BUT IT DIDN'T WORK WHEN I TESTED IT! SOMEONE MUST HAVE FIXED IT-- SET IT TO BE TRIPPED AGAIN!

BUT WHO IS THAT SOME-ONE?



SHORTLY, AT DINNER,, A SUMPTUOUS MEAL...

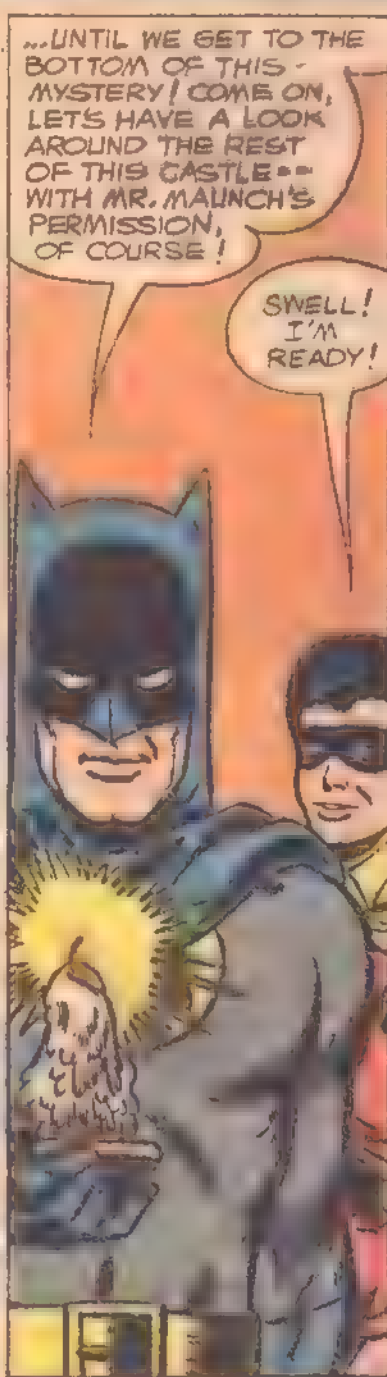
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM FOR WHAT OCCURRED, BATMAN! BUT OF COURSE IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT!

STRANGE... HOW MUCH HE LOOKS LIKE BRAGNEL!



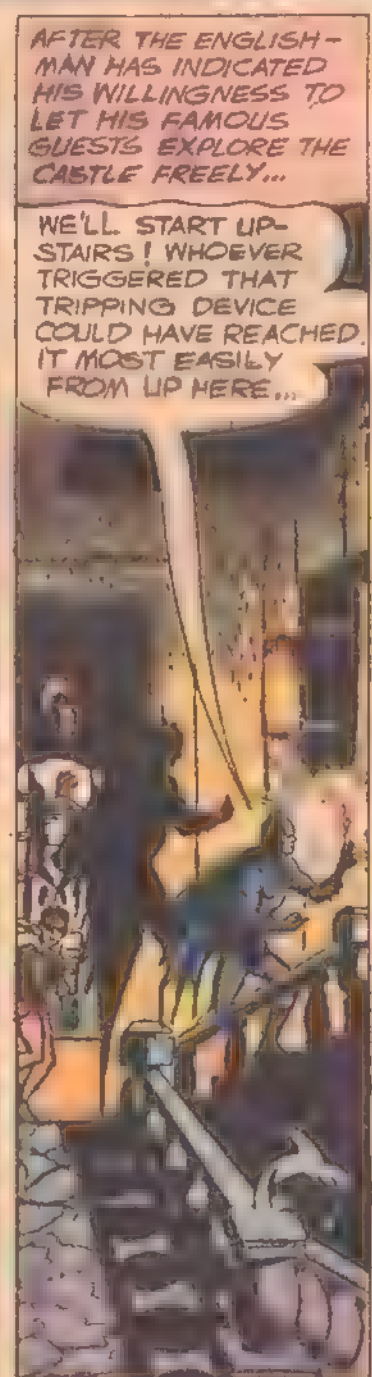
LATER.
BOY, I FEEL BETTER! I COULD LICK A CAGEFUL OF TIGERS NOW!... BUT YOU DIDN'T SWALLOW MAUNCH'S ACCIDENT- TIDBIT, DID YOU?

NOT QUITE! THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT LEAVING HERE...



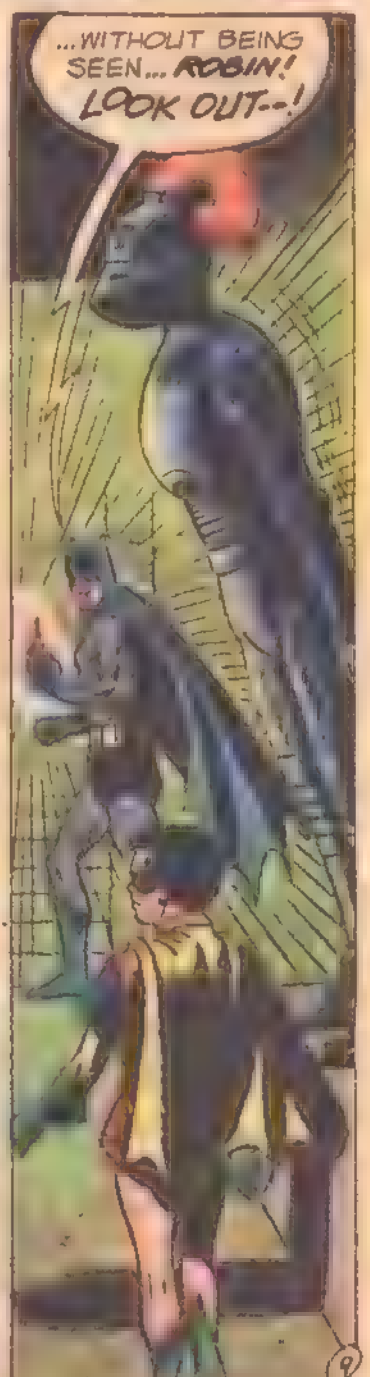
...UNTIL WE GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY! COME ON, LETS HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE REST OF THIS CASTLE-- WITH MR. MAUNCH'S PERMISSION, OF COURSE!

SWELL! I'M READY!



AFTER THE ENGLISH-MAN HAS INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO LET HIS FAMOUS GUESTS EXPLORE THE CASTLE FREELY...

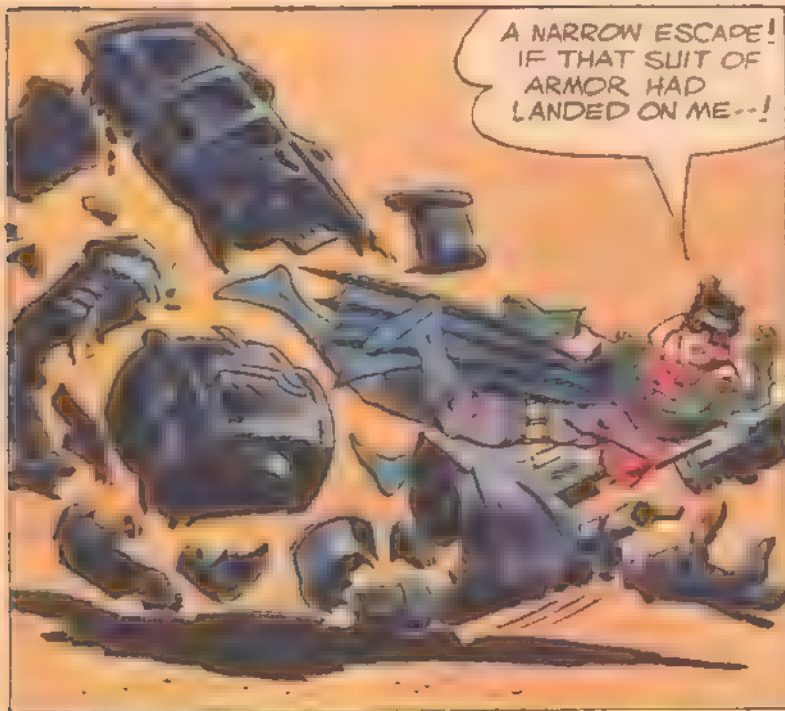
WE'LL START UP-STAIRS! WHOEVER TRIGGERED THAT TRIPPING DEVICE COULD HAVE REACHED IT MOST EASILY FROM UP HERE...



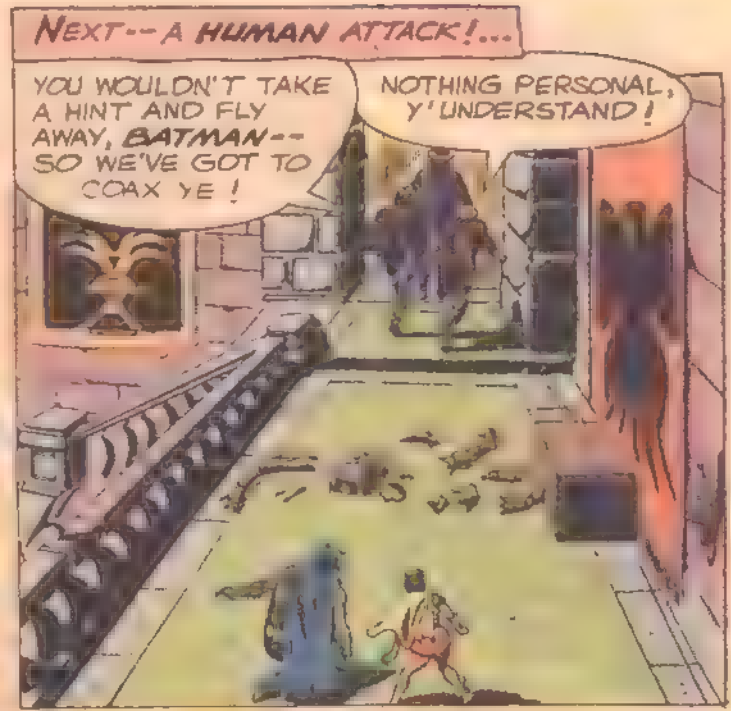
...WITHOUT BEING SEEN... ROBIN! LOOK OUT--!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



A NARROW ESCAPE!
IF THAT SUIT OF
ARMOR HAD
LANDED ON ME--!



NEXT-- A HUMAN ATTACK!...

YOU WOULDN'T TAKE
A HINT AND FLY
AWAY, **BATMAN**--
SO WE'VE GOT TO
COAX YE!

NOTHING PERSONAL,
Y'UNDERSTAND!



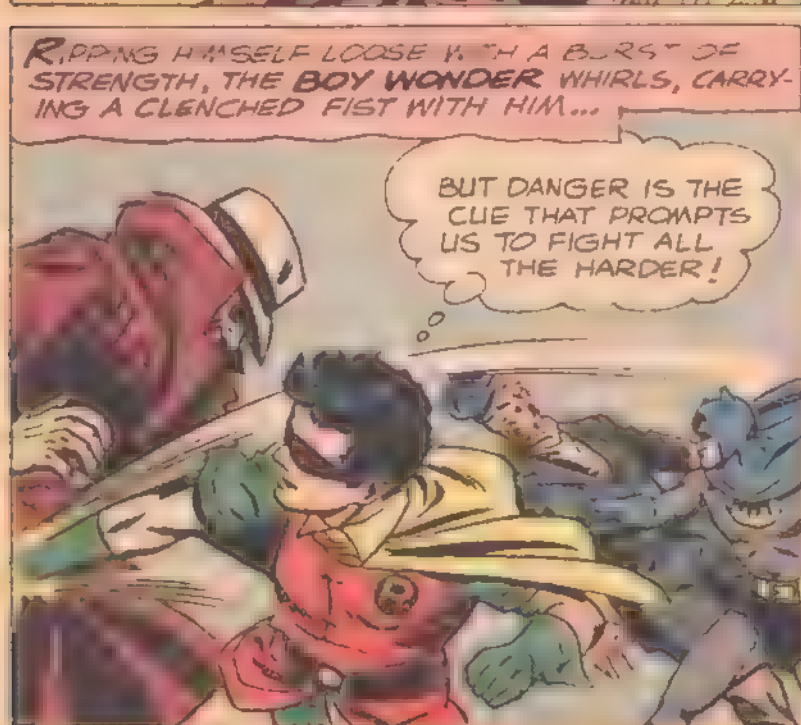
AS THE LARDED CRUSADER
S DETERS WITH A
TGRSH SAFTNESS,
AND THE LASHES
OUT.

ENGLISH YEGGS! A
TYPICAL PAIR-- ON
SCOTLAND YARD'S
WANTED LIST UNLESS
I M'SS MY GUESS!



YOU LITTLE BLIGHTER!
IT'D SAVE ME TROUBLE
IF I JUST TOSSED YOU
OVER THE BALCONY!

EVERYWHERE
WE MOVE,
DANGER LEAPS
OUT AT US!



RIPPING HIMSELF LOOSE WITH A BURST OF
STRENGTH, THE **BOY WONDER** WHIRLS, CARRY-
ING A CLENCHED FIST WITH HIM...

BUT DANGER IS THE
CLUE THAT PROMPTS
US TO FIGHT ALL
THE HARDER!



AS THE BATTERED THUGS MAKE A RUN FOR
IT...

LOOKS LIKE
THEY MET MORE
THAN THEY
'BARGAINED FOR,
BATMAN!

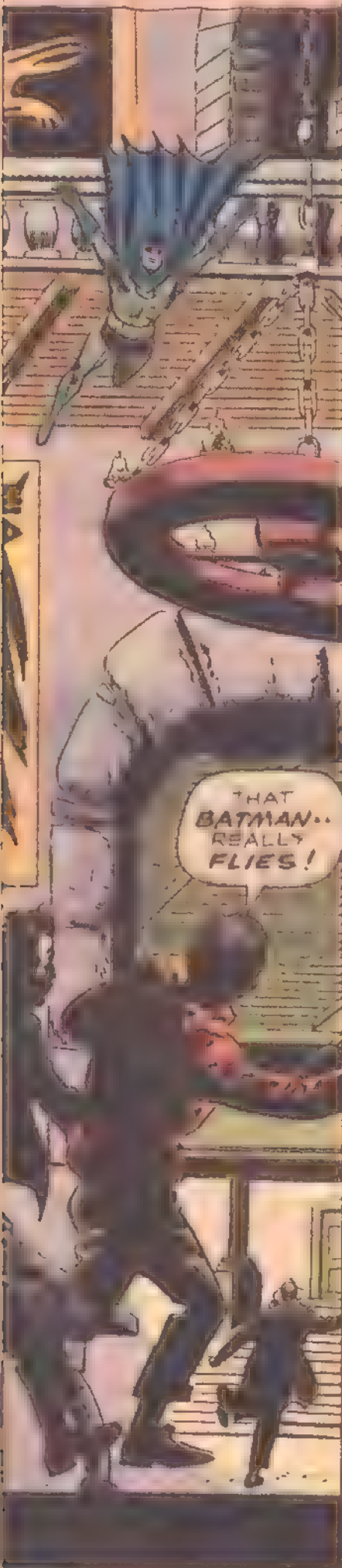
THEY STARTED
THIS-- WE'LL
FINISH IT!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



COILED-SPRINGS FLEX, A FORM FLASHES...



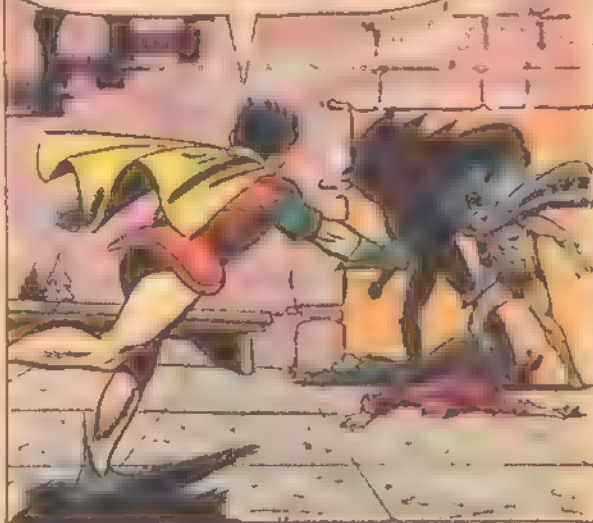
THAT BATMAN.. REALLY FLIES!

THE NEXT MOMENT, CAT-LIKE AGILITY COMBINES WITH PERFECT MUSCULAR COORDINATION FOR 'A BATTERING RAM BLOW'...

THIS MAKES AT LEAST TWO CROOKS THAT SCOTLAND YARD CAN STOP LOOKING FOR!



THE THIRD ONE GOT AWAY, BATMAN! HE MUST HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH ONE OF THOSE SECRET DOORS THESE CASTLE WALLS SEEM FULL OF!



AFTER THE TWO THUGS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE LOCAL POLICE, STILL REFUSING TO TALK...

WHERE DID OUR ATTACKERS COME FROM, BATMAN? WHO IS THE TRENCH-COATED MAN? THIS MYSTERY GETS DEEPER EVERY MINUTE!

COULD IT HAVE BEEN MAUNCH? BUT WHY WOULD HE...?



MEANWHILE, IN THE CAVERNOUS DEPTHS OF THE ANCIENT CASTLE...

I'VE GOT TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO LET BATMAN AND ROBIN STOP ME NOW! NEXT TIME WE MEET, I WON'T BUNGLE THE JOB!

I WARN YOU VINCENT! IF YOU USE THAT GUN YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY!



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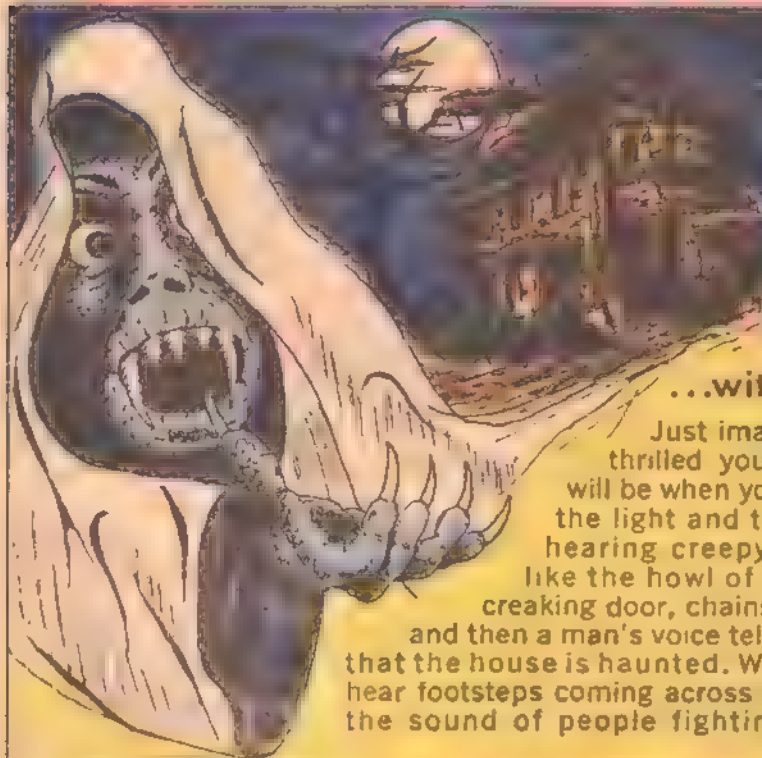
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A BATMAN CLASSIC



I REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE BOTH KIDS IN THIS TWO-BY-FOUR VILLAGE--YOU WERE TIMID THEN TOO, WEREN'T YOU, COUSIN ALBERT? WHEN I LEFT FOR AMERICA YOU STAYED HERE ...

ARE YOU SO PROUD OF YOUR LIFE IN AMERICA?

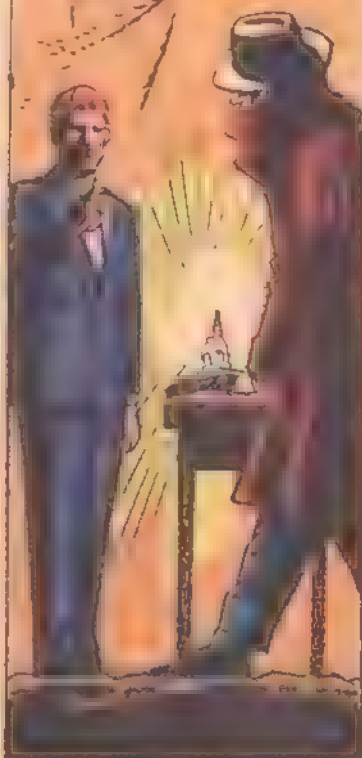
WHAT DID YOU DO THERE BUT ROB AND STEAL? YOU'D BE THERE STILL EXCEPT THAT YOU HEARD I'D BOUGHT THIS OLD UNUSED CASTLE ...

AND THAT YOU WERE ON THE TRAIL...

...OF A VERY INTERESTING TREASURE HOARD! YES! YOU COULDN'T KEEP INFORMATION LIKE THAT FROM ME, COUSIN! I CAME BACK TO HELP YOU FIND IT--HA-HA! AND I'M VERY CLOSE TO STRIKING PAY-DIRT! I DON'T KNOW HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN TRAILED ME HERE BUT A COUPLE OF GUN--SHOTS WILL SILENCE THEM FOR GOOD!

YOU'RE VILE--EVIL!

CAREFUL! THERE ARE MORE THAN TWO BULLETS IN THIS GUN! JUST KEEP FOLLOWING MY ORDERS, CUZ--IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU... AND YOUR FAMILY!



ONE MOMENT, THE GREAT HALL ABOVE IS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN! THE NEXT MOMENT...

MR. TRENCH-COAT--!

SORRY IN A WAY THIS DUEL HAS TO END! I WAS GETTING A KICK OUT OF IT! BUT THAT'S LIFE, eh? HA, HA...

LEVELING HIS GUN AT US--!

ONE CHANCE!

ROBIN, FOLLOW MY LEAD! WHEN I START TO MOVE-- HIT THE FLOOR!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



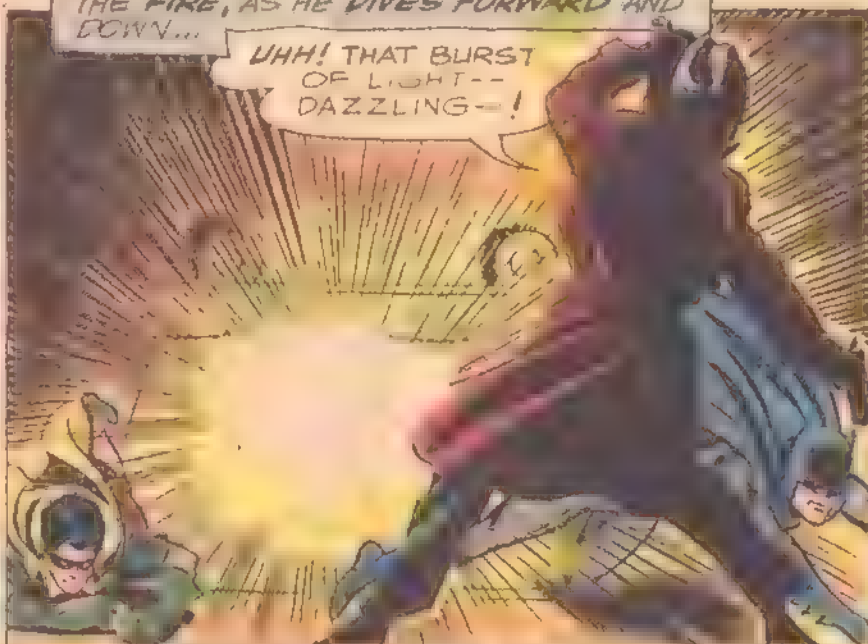
THEN FOLLOWS AN ACTION THAT OCCURS
FASTER THAN ONE CAN TELL ABOUT IT!
WITH A KIM-LIKE MOTION, BATMAN'S
-RY GOES UP TOWARD THE MANTLE...
WHERE HE GRABS...



...A CAN OF HIGHLY COMBLSTIBLE
L TUID BEHIND HIM, AND TONGES IT...

WITH ALMOST THE SAME MO. ON INTO
THE FIRE, AS HE DIVES FORWARD AND
DOWN...

UHH! THAT BURST
OF LIGHT--
DAZZLING--!



AND IN THE
FOLLOW-UP
MOMENT...

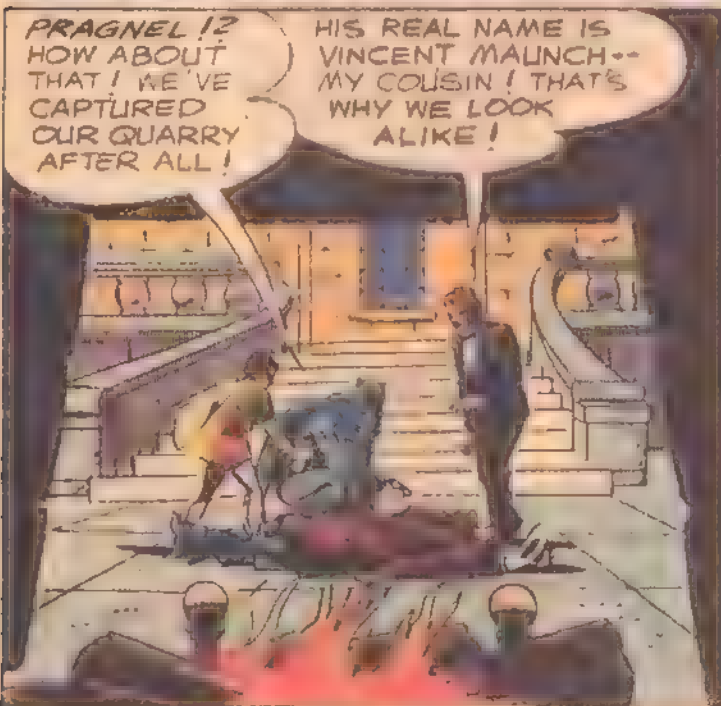
BULLY FOR
YOU,
BATMAN!
LET HIM
HAVE IT!

HUH? I GUESS
MR. MAUNCH IS
ON OUR SIDE,
AFTER ALL!

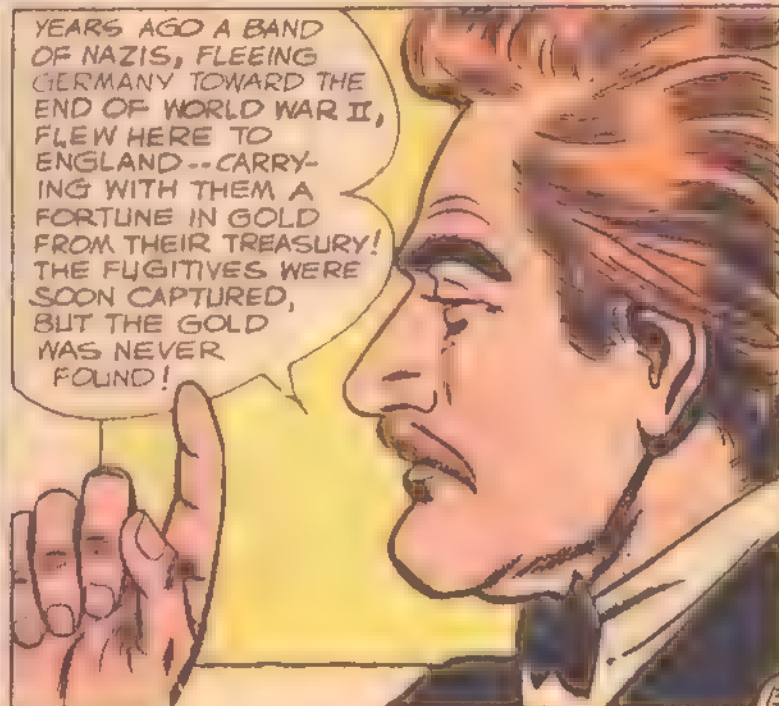


PRAGNEL! 12
HOW ABOUT
THAT! WE'VE
CAPTURED
OUR QUARRY
AFTER ALL!

HIS REAL NAME IS
VINCENT MAUNCH--
MY COUSIN! THAT'S
WHY WE LOOK
ALIKE!



YEARS AGO A BAND
OF NAZIS, FLEEING
GERMANY TOWARD THE
END OF WORLD WAR II,
FLEW HERE TO
ENGLAND--CARRY-
ING WITH THEM A
FORTUNE IN GOLD
FROM THEIR TREASURY!
THE FUGITIVES WERE
SOON CAPTURED,
BUT THE GOLD
WAS NEVER
FOUND!





A BATMAN CLASSIC



I STARTED TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST TREASURE A DECADE AGO ! GRADUALLY THE TRAIL LED ME HERE TO THIS CASTLE ! I MANAGED TO RAISE FUNDS AND BUY IT--IN ORDER TO CONTINUE MY SEARCH ! BUT VINCENT FOUND OUT--AND DECIDED TO REAP THE BENEFIT OF ALL MY EFFORTS !

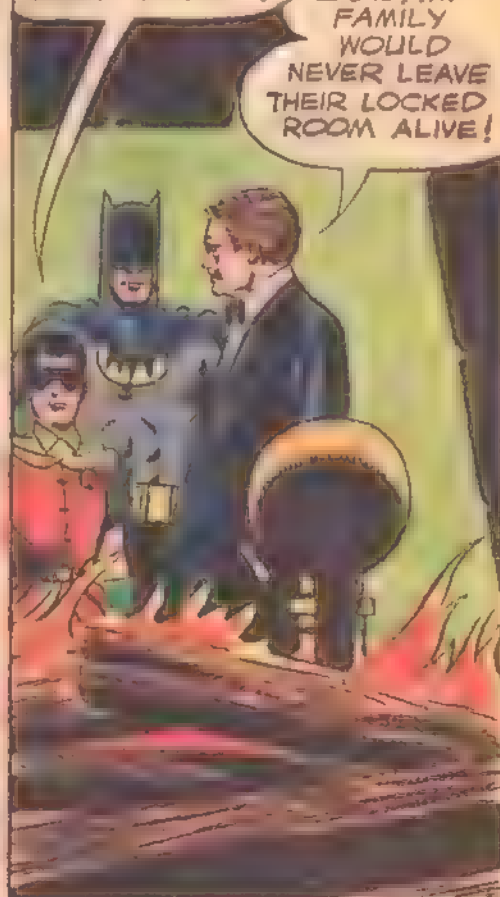


FROM THE MOMENT OF HIS ARRIVAL HERE WITH HIS TWO HENCHMEN, WE LIVED IN FEAR ! HE KEPT MY WIFE AND CHILDREN LOCKED UP IN THEIR ROOM --WHILE HE AND THE OTHERS DUG FOR THE GOLD ! THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU ARRIVED HERE, I ASKED YOU TO STAY-- HOPING YOU COULD HELP ME ...

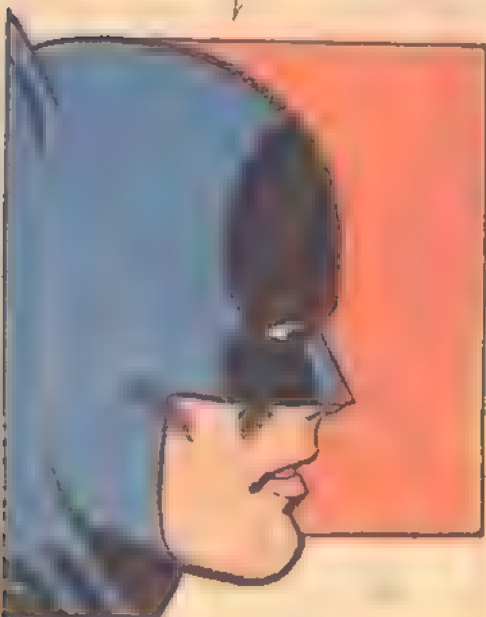


BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SIMPLY ASK US OUT-RIGHT TO HELP?

MY COUSIN THREATENED ME THAT IF I DID, MY FAMILY WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEIR LOCKED ROOM ALIVE !



IT JUST STRUCK ME WHAT A CURIOUS TURN THIS CASE TOOK ! WHEN PRAGNEL SAW US, HE MISTAKENLY THOUGHT WE HAD FOLLOWED HIM HERE TO ARREST HIM--SO HE TRIED TO GET RID OF US ! IF HE'D ONLY HELD OFF- MAKING A MOVE AGAINST US, WE WOULD HAVE LEFT SOON ENOUGH -- WITHOUT SUSPECTING A THING !



AS MAUNCH'S FAMILY IS RELEASED FROM THE LOCKED ROOM IN ANOTHER WING OF THE CASTLE ...

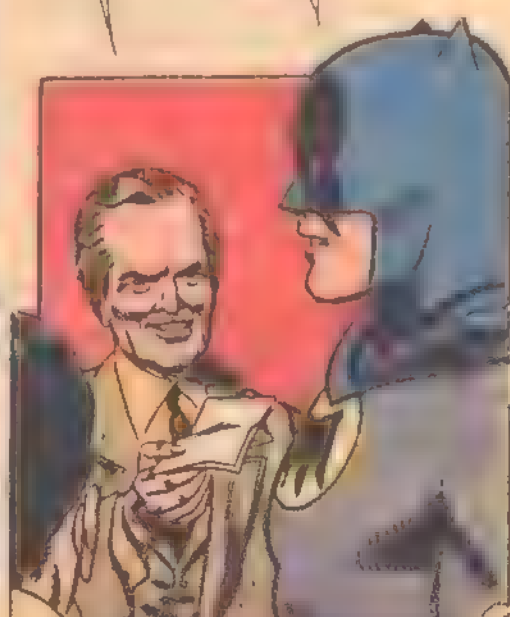
AS THEY SAY IN STORY BOOKS, "ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL !"



IN DUE COURSE, EXTRADITION IS APPROVED...

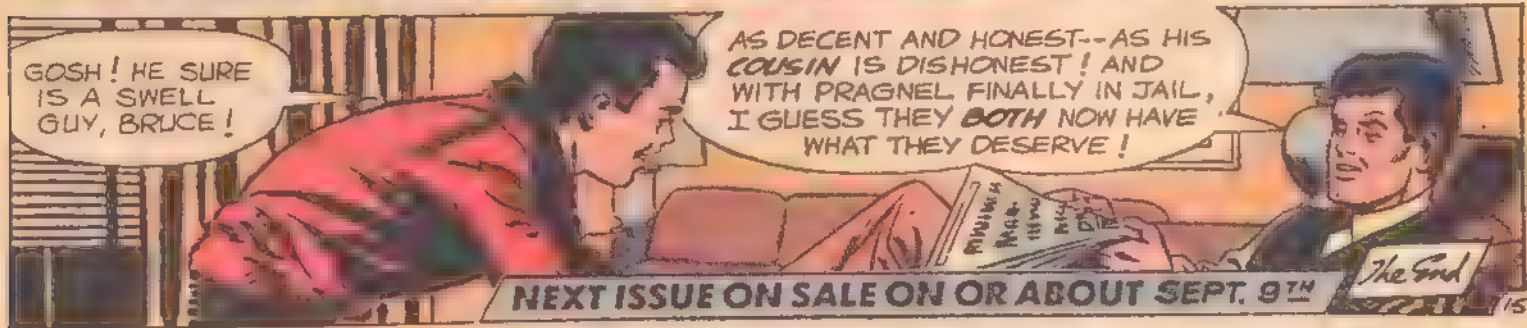
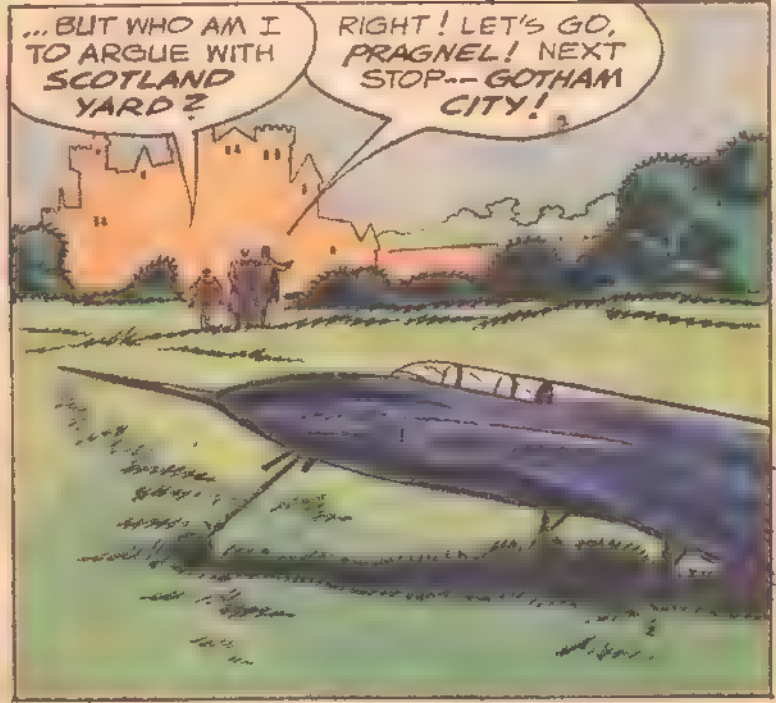
HERE ARE THE PAPERS TO TAKE "PRAGNEL" BACK TO AMERICA FOR TRIAL ! AND PERMIT ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, ON YOUR REMARKABLE DETECTIVE WORK IN THIS CASE !

THANK YOU, INSPECTOR !





A BATMAN CLASSIC

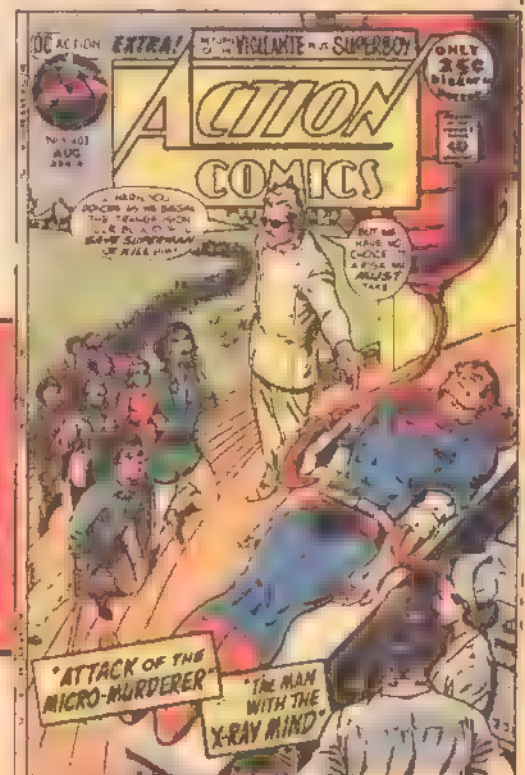


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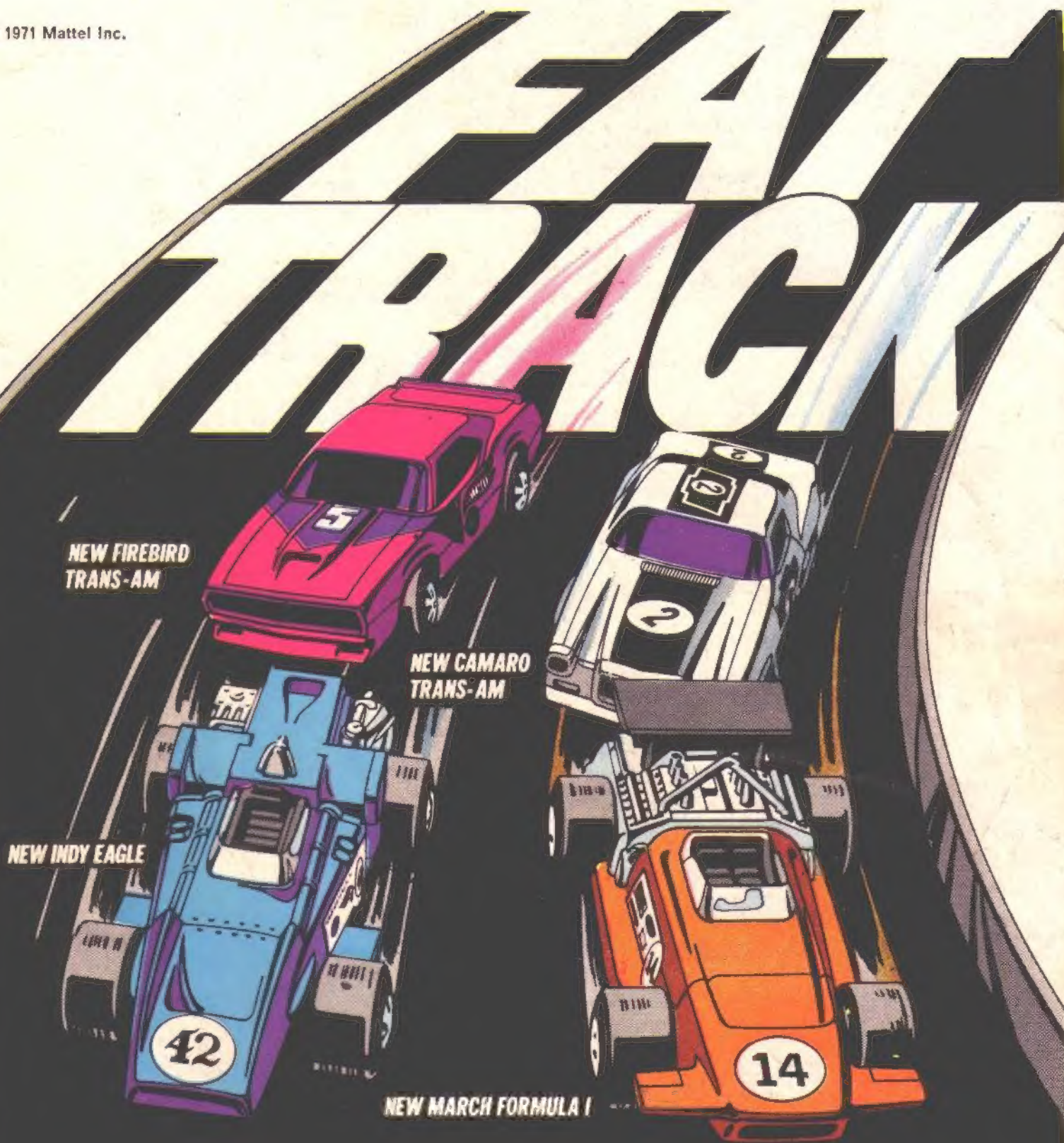
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